

Cover – Copy – Compare

(from Intervention Central's website; submitted by Cindy Thompson)

Students who can work independently and need extra practice with math computational problems, spelling or vocabulary words, will benefit from the Cover-Copy-Compare technique.

Preparation: The teacher must prepare worksheets for the student to use independently.

- **Math** - Computation problems with answers appear on the left side of the sheet. The same computation problems appear on the right side of the page, unsolved.
- **Spelling** - Correctly spelled words are listed on the left of the page, with space on the right for the student to spell each word.
- **Vocabulary** - Words and definitions are listed on the left side of the page, with space on the right for the student to write out each word and its corresponding definition

Technique:

When first introducing this technique, the teacher gives the student an index card. The student is directed to look at each correct item (e.g., correctly spelled word, computation problem with solution) on the left side of the page.

- **Math** – student is instructed to cover the correct model on the left side of the page with an index card and to copy the problem and compute the correct answer in the space on the right side of the sheet. The student then uncovers the correct answer on the left and checks his or her own work.
- **Spelling** – student is instructed to cover the correct model on the left side of the page with an index card and to spell the word in the space on the right of the sheet. The student then uncovers the correct answer on the left to check his or her work.
- **Vocabulary** – student covers the correct model on the left side of the page with an index card and to write both the word and its definition in the space on the right side of the sheet. The student uncovers the correct model on the left to check his/her work.

Troubleshooting:

- **Problem:** Student is copying rather than attempting to solve items on the worksheet.
Solution: Arrange to have a peer tutor sit with the student.
- **Problem:** Index card is distracting to student.
- **Solution:** Get rid of the index card. Instead, fold the worksheet in half length-wise so that the answers appear on one side of the folded worksheet and the answer blanks appear on the other side. For each item, the student will peer at the correct model, then flip the folded sheet over to the right side to independently solve the item (with the correct model neatly folded out of sight).