Ways to Work on your Spelling

If you're like me, you always need to work on your spelling. It can be dry and boring, but it need not be a chore. First and foremost, develop good habits: don't be Ok with poor spelling. You most likely read and write without even noticing – texts, emails, ads – if you can be mindful and at least pause an reflect on difficult to spell words then you are working on your spelling. Other more overt ways to work on spelling that I've collected over the years:

* Most people can’t stop themselves from doodling when they have a pen or pencil on their hands. Why not doodle constructively? Create doodles around hard to spell words (this is a great thing for parents and children alike to do together) and see how quickly you pick up the spelling.
* When you’re reading books, magazines, and newspapers, either jot down unfamiliar words or circle or highlight them (make sure you’re not writing in library books). This will help you learn new words and increase your vocabulary.
* You have Google in your pocket. Use it. Any time you are unsure of the spelling of a word, just look it up.
* Say words phonetically. For example: “Lie-ju-hu-T” will help you remember the “gh” in light.
* Play word games. If you are going to be playing games on your phone while you are waiting for the bus anyway, do a word search or a crossword puzzle. Is your phone dead? Pick up a free newspaper and do the crossword or word search.
* Work on your spelling in texts and emails. I know, it sounds nerdy, but for most people, it's how they communicate. When a friend spells a word that you don't think is spelled correctly notice. Ask yourself, is that spelled correctly? If it is, be sure to spell it correctly when you respond.

Choose 2 of the tasks and try them over the next week. Make note of what word you corrected and how you corrected it. Briefly record the anecdote of how you noticed and corrected the spelling. What word was misspelled or suspected of being misspelled? Where was the spelling error? Did you make the spelling error? Was it a word that was spelled correctly, but you thought it might not be? How did you verify the correct spelling? Did you use the correctly spelled word in your writing after?