

# National Curriculum spelling overview



## vowel digraphs and trigraphs

**ai** (e.g. rain), **oi** (e.g. coin), **ay** (e.g. day), **oy** (e.g. toy), **a-e** (e.g. made), **e-e** (e.g. these), **i-e** (e.g. ride), **o-e** (e.g. home), **u-e** (e.g. rule), **ar** (e.g. car), **ee** (e.g. see), **ea** (e.g. dream), **ea** (e.g. head), **er** (e.g. her), **er** (e.g. better), **ir** (e.g. girl), **ur** (e.g. turn), **oo** (e.g. food), **oo** (e.g. book), **oa** (e.g. boat), **oe** (e.g. toes), **ou** (e.g. out), **ow** (e.g. now), **ow** (e.g. snow), **ue** (e.g. blue), **ew** (e.g. new), **ie** (e.g. lie), **ie** (e.g. field), **igh** (e.g. high), **or** (e.g. for), **ore** (e.g. more), **aw** (e.g. saw), **au** (e.g. author), **air** e.g. (fair), **ear** (e.g. hear), **ear** (e.g. bear), **are** (e.g. care)

**/f/ spelt ff** (e.g. off)  
**/l/ spelt ll** (e.g. well)  
**/s/ spelt ss** (e.g. miss)  
**/z/ spelt zz** (e.g. buzz)  
**/k/ spelt ck** (e.g. back)

**/ŋ/ spelt n before k**  
 (e.g. bank)

**division of words  
 into syllables**  
 (e.g. carrot)

**-tch**  
 (e.g. catch)

**/v/ at the end of words**  
 (e.g. have)

**adding -s and -es to words**  
 - **plural of nouns** (e.g. cats)  
 - **third person singular  
 of verbs** (e.g. catches)

**adding -ing** (e.g. hunting)  
**adding -ed** (e.g. hunted)  
**adding -er** (e.g. hunter)  
 to verbs where no change is need  
 to the root verb

**adding -er** (e.g. quicker)  
**adding -est** (e.g. quickest)  
 to adjectives where no change is  
 needed to the root word

**words ending -y**  
 (e.g. happy)

**/f/ spelt ph** (e.g. dolphin)  
**/w/ spelt wh** (e.g. where)

**/k/ spelt k before e, i, and y**  
 (e.g. sketch, kit, frisky)

**adding the prefix un-**  
 (e.g. unhappy)

## common exception words

**compound words**  
 (e.g. football)

the, a, do, to, today, of, said, says, are, were, was, is, his, has, I, you, your, they, be, he, me, she, we, no, go, so, by, my, here, there, where, love, come, some, one, once, ask, friend, school, put, push, pull, full, house, our

Year 1

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Year 2	<p><b>/dʒ/ spelt ge at the end of words</b> (e.g. change)  <b>/dʒ/ spelt dge at the end of words</b> (e.g. badge)  <b>/dʒ/ spelt g elsewhere in words</b>                  (e.g. gem, magic, energy)</p>	<p><b>/s/ spelt c before e, i and y</b>                  (e.g. race, city, fancy)</p>	<p><b>/n/ spelt kn at the beginning of words</b>                  (e.g. knock)  <b>/n/ spelt gn at the beginning of words</b>                  (gnaw)</p>	<p><b>/r/ spelt wr at the beginning of words</b>                  (e.g. write)</p>
	<p><b>/l/ or /əl/ spelt -le at the end of words</b>                  (e.g. table)</p>	<p><b>/l/ or /əl/ spelt -el at the end of words</b>                  (e.g. tunnel)</p>	<p><b>/l/ or /əl/ spelt -al at the end of words</b>                  (e.g. animal)</p>	<p><b>words ending -il</b>                  (e.g. pencil)</p>
	<p><b>/aɪ/ spelt -y at the end of words</b>                  (e.g. cry)</p>	<p><b>adding -es to nouns ending in -y</b>                  (e.g. babies)  <b>adding -es to verbs ending in -y</b>                  (e.g. flies)</p>	<p><b>adding -ed</b> (e.g. copied)  <b>adding -ing</b> (e.g. copying)  <b>adding -er</b> (e.g. copier)  <b>adding -est</b> (e.g. happiest)                  to a root word ending in -y with a consonant before it</p>	<p><b>adding -ing</b> (e.g. hiking)  <b>adding -ed</b> (e.g. hiked)  <b>adding -er</b> (e.g. hiker)  <b>adding -est</b> (e.g. nicest)  <b>adding -y</b> (e.g. shiny)                  to words ending in -e with a consonant before it</p>
	<p><b>adding -ing</b> (e.g. patting)  <b>adding -ed</b> (e.g. patted)  <b>adding -er</b> (e.g. sadder)  <b>adding -est</b> (e.g. saddest)  <b>adding -y</b> (e.g. runny)                  to words of one syllable ending in a single consonant letter after a single vowel letter</p>	<p><b>/ɔ:/ spelt a before l</b>                  (e.g. walk)  <b>/ɔ:/ spelt a before ll</b>                  (e.g. ball)</p>	<p><b>/ʌ/ spelt o</b>                  (e.g. nothing)</p>	<p><b>/i:/ spelt -ey</b>                  (e.g. donkey)</p>
	<p><b>/ɒ/ spelt a after w</b>                  (e.g. want)  <b>/ɒ/ spelt a after qu</b>                  (e.g. squash)</p>	<p><b>/ɜ:/ spelt or after w</b>                  (e.g. word)</p>	<p><b>/ɔ:/ spelt ar after w</b>                  (e.g. warm)</p>	<p><b>/z/ spelt s</b>                  (e.g. treasure)</p>
	<p><b>suffix -ment</b> (e.g. enjoyment)  <b>suffix -ness</b> (e.g. sadness)  <b>suffix -ful</b> (e.g. careful)  <b>suffix -less</b> (e.g. hopeless)  <b>suffix -ly</b> (e.g. badly)</p>	<p><b>contractions</b>                  (e.g. can't)</p>	<p><b>possessive apostrophe – singular nouns</b>                  (e.g. the child's)</p>	<p><b>words ending in -tion</b>                  (e.g. station)</p>
	<p><b>homophones and near-homophones</b>                  (e.g. there/their/they're)</p>	<p><b>common exception words</b></p>		
		<p>door, floor, poor, because, find, kind, mind, behind, child, children, wild, climb, most, only, both, old, cold, gold, hold, told, every, everybody, even, great, break, steak, pretty, beautiful, after, fast, last, past, father, class, grass, pass, plant, path, bath, hour, move, prove, improve, sure, sugar, eye, could, should, would, who, whole, any, many, clothes, busy, people, water, again, half, money, Mr, Mrs, parents, Christmas</p>		

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Year 3/4	<p><b>adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable</b> (e.g. gardening/gardener)</p> <p><b>and knowing when to double the consonant</b> (e.g. forgetting/forgotten)</p>	<p><b>/ɪ/ spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words</b> (e.g. myth)</p>	<p><b>/ʌ/ spelt ou</b> (e.g. touch)</p>	<p><b>prefixes</b></p>
	<p><b>suffix -ation</b> (e.g. information)</p>	<p><b>suffix -ly</b> (e.g. sadly, finally, happily, simply, basically)</p>	<p><b>endings which sound like /ʒe/ spelt -sure</b> (e.g. treasure)</p> <p><b>endings which sound like /tʃə/ spelt -ture</b> (e.g. creature)</p>	<p><b>endings which sound like /ʒen/ spelt -sion</b> (e.g. television)</p>
	<p><b>suffix -ous</b> (e.g. poisonous)</p>	<p><b>endings which sound like /ʃən/ spelt -tion</b> (e.g. invention)</p> <p><b>endings which sound like /ʃən/ spelt -sion</b> (e.g. tension)</p> <p><b>endings which sound like /ʃən/ spelt -ssion</b> (e.g. discussion)</p> <p><b>spelt -cian</b> (e.g. magician)</p>	<p><b>/k/ spelt ch</b> (e.g. chorus)</p>	<p><b>/ʃ/ spelt ch</b> (e.g. chef)</p>
	<p><b>words ending with the /g/ sound spelt -gue</b> (e.g. tongue)</p>	<p><b>words ending with the /k/ sound spelt -que</b> (e.g. unique)</p>	<p><b>/s/ spelt sc</b> (e.g. science)</p>	<p><b>/eɪ/ spelt ei</b> (e.g. vein)</p> <p><b>/eɪ/ spelt eigh</b> (e.g. eight)</p> <p><b>/eɪ/ spelt ey</b> (e.g. they)</p>
	<p><b>possessive apostrophe – plural words</b> (e.g. girls')</p>	<p><b>homophones and near homophones</b> (e.g. peace/piece)</p>		
	<p><b>statutory word list</b></p>			
	<p>accident(ally), actual(ly), address, answer, appear, arrive, believe, bicycle, breath, breathe, build, busy, business, calendar, caught, centre, century, certain, circle, complete, consider, continue, decide, describe, different, difficult, disappear, early, earth, eight, eighth, enough, exercise, experience, experiment, extreme, famous, favourite, February, forward(s), fruit, grammar, group, guard, guide, heard, heart, height, history, imagine, increase, important, interest, island, knowledge, learn, length, library, material, medicine, mention, minute, natural, naughty, notice, occasion(ally), often, opposite, ordinary, particular, peculiar, perhaps, popular, position, possess(ion), possible, potatoes, pressure, probably, promise, purpose, quarter, question, recent, regular, reign, remember, sentence, separate, special, straight, strange, strength, suppose, surprise, therefore, though, although, thought, through, various, weight, woman, women</p>			

# National Curriculum spelling overview



Year 5/6

<p><b>endings which sound like /ʃəs/ spelt -cious</b> (e.g. vicious)</p> <p><b>endings which sound like /ʃəs/ spelt -tious</b> (e.g. cautious)</p>	<p><b>endings which sound like /ʃəl/ spelt -cial</b> (e.g. official)</p> <p><b>endings which sound like /ʃəl/ spelt -tial</b> (e.g. essential)</p>	<p><b>words ending in -ant</b> (e.g. observant)</p> <p><b>words ending in -ance</b> (e.g. observance)</p> <p><b>words ending in -ancy</b> (e.g. hesitancy)</p> <p><b>words ending in -ent</b> (e.g. decent)</p> <p><b>words ending in -ence</b> (e.g. obedience)</p> <p><b>words ending in -ency</b> (e.g. decency)</p>	<p><b>words ending in -able</b> (e.g. adorable)</p> <p><b>words ending in -ably</b> (e.g. adorably)</p> <p><b>words ending in -ible</b> (e.g. possible)</p> <p><b>words ending in -ibly</b> (e.g. possibly)</p>
<p><b>adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in -fer</b> (e.g. referring, referred, referral, reference, referee)</p>	<p><b>use of the hyphen</b> (e.g. co-ordinate)</p>	<p><b>/i:/ spelt ei after c</b> (e.g. ceiling)</p>	<p><b>words containing the letter-string ough</b> (e.g. brought)</p>
<p><b>words with silent letters</b> (e.g. island)</p>	<p><b>homophones and other words that are often confused</b> (e.g. practice/practise)</p>		

## statutory word list

accommodate, accompany, according, achieve, aggressive, amateur, ancient, apparent, appreciate, attached, available, average, awkward, bargain, bruise, category, cemetery, committee, communicate, competition, conscience, conscious, controversy, convenience, correspond, criticise, curiosity, definite, desperate, determined, develop, dictionary, disastrous, embarrass, environment, equip(-ped, -ment), especially, exaggerate, excellent, existence, explanation, familiar, foreign, forty, frequently, government, guarantee, harass, hindrance, identity, immediate(ly), individual, interfere, interrupt, language, leisure, lightning, marvellous, mischievous, muscle, necessary, neighbour, nuisance, occupy, occur, opportunity, parliament, persuade, physical, prejudice, privilege, profession, programme, pronunciation, queue, recognise, recommend, relevant, restaurant, rhyme, rhythm, sacrifice, secretary, shoulder, signature, sincere(ly), soldier, stomach, sufficient, suggest, symbol, system, temperature, thorough, twelfth, variety, vegetable, vehicle, yacht