

EDITED NATIONAL CURRICULUM FOR SPELLING

Spelling, vocabulary, grammar, punctuation and glossary

The two statutory appendices – on [spelling](#) and on [vocabulary, grammar and punctuation](#) – give an overview of the specific features that should be included in teaching the programmes of study.

Opportunities for teachers to enhance pupils' vocabulary arise naturally from their reading and writing. As vocabulary increases, teachers should show pupils how to understand the relationships between words, how to understand nuances in meaning, and how to develop their understanding of, and ability to use, figurative language. They should also teach pupils how to work out and clarify the meanings of unknown words and words with more than one meaning. References to developing pupils' vocabulary are also included within the appendices.

Pupils should be taught to control their speaking and writing consciously and to use Standard English. They should be taught to use the elements of spelling, grammar, punctuation and 'language about language' listed. This is not intended to constrain or restrict teachers' creativity, but simply to provide the structure on which they can construct exciting lessons. A non-statutory [Glossary](#) is provided for teachers.

Throughout the programmes of study, teachers should teach pupils the vocabulary they need to discuss their reading, writing and spoken language. It is important that pupils learn the correct grammatical terms in English and that these terms are integrated within teaching.

Spelling – work for year 1

Revision of reception work

Statutory requirements

The boundary between revision of work covered in Reception and the introduction of new work may vary according to the programme used, but basic revision should include:

- all letters of the alphabet and the sounds which they most commonly represent
- consonant digraphs which have been taught and the sounds which they represent
- vowel digraphs which have been taught and the sounds which they represent
- the process of segmenting spoken words into sounds before choosing graphemes to represent the sounds
- words with adjacent consonants
- guidance and rules which have been taught

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | | Example words (non-statutory) | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| The sounds /f/, /l/, /s/, /z/ and /k/ spelt ff, ll, ss, zz and ck | The /f/, /l/, /s/, /z/ and /k/ sounds are usually spelt as ff , ll , ss , zz and ck if they come straight after a single vowel letter in short words. Exceptions: if, pal, us, bus, yes. | off puff huff cuff cliff sniff snuff stuff well bell | all fall call back luck kick sock lock shock stock chess | buzz fuzz fizz frizz jazz miss kiss hiss less mess dress |
| The /ŋ/ sound spelt n before k | Nessy Island 2 Lesson 13 | | bank thank think ink pink hunk dunk | link wink honk sunk tank stink |
| Division of words into syllables | Each syllable is like a 'beat' in the spoken word. Words of more than one syllable often have an unstressed syllable in which the vowel sound is unclear. Nessy Island 2 Lesson 17 | | pocket rabbit carrot cobweb magnet basket bitten | thunder sunset picnic goblin button hotdog cotton |

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) | |
|--|--|--|---|
| -tch | The /tʃ/ sound is usually spelt as tch if it comes straight after a single vowel letter. Exceptions: rich, which, much, such. Nessy Island 3 Lesson 28 | catch fetch kitchen ditch latch match witch | notch hutch itch pitch patch notch watch |
| The /v/ sound at the end of words | English words hardly ever end with the letter v , so if a word ends with a /v/ sound, the letter e usually needs to be added after the 'v'. | have live give love | dove above glove |
| Adding s and es to words (plural of nouns and the third person singular of verbs) | If the ending sounds like /s/ or /z/, it is spelt as -s . If the ending sounds like /ɪz/ and forms an extra syllable or 'beat' in the word, it is spelt as -es . | cats dogs spends rocks thanks balls | bags catches matches boxes foxes |
| Adding the endings –ing, –ed and –er to verbs where no change is needed to the root word | -ing and -er always add an extra syllable to the word and -ed sometimes does. The past tense of some verbs may sound as if it ends in /ɪd/ (extra syllable), /d/ or /t/ (no extra syllable), but all these endings are spelt -ed . If the verb ends in two consonant letters (the same or different), the ending is simply added on. <i>-ed – Nessy Island 4 Lesson 36</i> | hunting hunted hunter buzzing buzzed buzzer adding added asking asked ending | jumping jumped jumper running runner playing player played clipped clipping ended |
| Adding –er and –est to adjectives where no change is needed to the root word | As with verbs (see above), if the adjective ends in two consonant letters (the same or different), the ending is simply added on. | grander grandest fresher freshest faster fastest kinder kindest | quicker quickest lower lowest older oldest harder hardest |

Vowel digraphs and trigraphs

Some may already be known, depending on the programmes used in Reception, but some will be new.

| Vowel digraphs and trigraphs | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| ai, oi | The digraphs ai and oi are virtually never used at the end of English words. <i>ai</i> – <i>Nessy Island 3 Lesson 24</i> <i>oi</i> – <i>Nessy Island 4 Lesson 38</i> | rain wait train paid afraid fail tail sail | jail oil join coin point soil spoil boil | |
| ay, oy | ay and oy are used for those sounds at the end of words and at the end of syllables. <i>ay</i> – <i>Nessy Island 3 Lesson 24</i> <i>oy</i> – <i>Nessy Island 4 Lesson 38</i> | day play say way stay may pray sway clay | pay stay boy toy joy soy enjoy annoy | |
| a–e | <i>Nessy Island 3 Lesson 21</i> | made came same fame name tame blame shame game | cake fake take lake bake fade safe late | |
| e–e | | these theme complete | | |
| i–e | <i>Nessy Island 3 Lesson 21</i> | five ride like hike lime mine | time side fine line ride hide | nine pine life shine wide |
| o–e | <i>Nessy Island 3 Lesson 21</i> | home those woke slope rope | hope hole pole stole bone | |
| u–e | Both the /u:/ and /ju:/ ('oo' and 'yoo') sounds can be spelt as u–e . <i>Nessy Island 3 Lesson 21</i> | June rule rude use tube tune | cute cube fume use fuse | |

| Vowel digraphs and trigraphs | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| ar | <i>Nessy island 2 Lesson 14</i> | car bar jar far tar start | arm garden star art barn yarn | dark harp hard lard park park |
| ee | <i>Nessy Island 2 Lesson 20</i> | see bee free feel heel peel | feed tree green meet week | sheep sweep beep been green |
| ea (/i:/) | <i>Nessy Island 2 Lesson 20</i> | sea dream meat each read | neat heat seat cheat | beak weak eat lead |
| ea (/ɛ/) | <i>Nessy Island 2 Lesson 20</i> | head bread meant instead read | deaf steady dead heavy | |
| er (/ɜ:/) | <i>Nessy Island 2 Lesson 16</i> | (stressed sound): her term verb person | | herd jerk perch |
| er (/ə/) | | (unstressed <i>schwa</i> sound): better under summer | | sister bitter burger winter |
| ir | <i>Nessy Island 2 Lesson 16</i> | girl bird shirt first | stir girl birth fir | first firm shirt third |
| ur | <i>Nessy Island 2 Lesson 16</i> | turn hurt church hurt fur purr | | burst Thursday burn curl nurse surf |

| Vowel digraphs and trigraphs | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| oo (/u:/) | <p>Very few words end with the letters oo, although the few that do are often words that primary children in year 1 will encounter, for example, <i>zoo</i></p> <p><i>Nessy Island 3 Lesson 28</i></p> | food pool moon zoo moo soon spoon root | hoot tool fool cool doom boost choose roost | |
| oo (/ʊ/) | <p><i>Nessy Island 3 Lesson 28</i></p> | book took foot wood good look | book hook cook crook soot wool | |
| oa | <p>The digraph oa is very rare at the end of an English word.</p> <p><i>Nessy Island 3 Lesson 27</i></p> | boat coat road coach goal float | toast soap soak oak foam loaf | |
| oe | <p><i>Nessy Island 3 Lesson 27</i></p> | toe goes | hoe Joe | |
| ou | <p>The only common English word ending in ou is <i>you</i>.</p> <p><i>Nessy Island 4 Lesson 39</i></p> | mouth around sound loud proud round pound | found mouse house count shout out about | |
| ow (/aʊ/ ow (/əʊ/ ue ew | <p>Both the /u:/ and /ju:/ ('oo' and 'yoo') sounds can be spelt as u-e, ue and ew. If words end in the /oo/ sound, ue and ew are more common spellings than oo.</p> <p><i>Nessy Island 4 Lesson 39</i></p> | now how brown down town own blow | snow grow show blue clue true rescue | Tuesday new few grew flew drew threw |
| ie (/aɪ/) | <p><i>Nessy Island 3 Lesson 25</i></p> | lie tie pie die | cried tried dried fried | |
| ie (/i:/) | <p><i>Nessy Island 3 Lesson 25</i></p> | chief field thief piece ceiling brief | | |

| Vowel digraphs and trigraphs | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
| igh | <i>Nessy Island 3 Lesson 25</i> | high night light bright right sight | tight high sigh fright thigh |
| or | <i>Nessy Island 2 Lesson 15</i> | for short born horse morning horn thorn torn story | corn for cork fork born cord lord ford form |
| ore | <i>Nessy Island 2 Lesson 15</i> | more score before wore | shore horse store snore |
| aw | | saw paw law raw draw hawk | dawn fawn yawn crawl shawl |
| au | <i>Nessy Island 9 Lesson 83</i> | author August dinosaur astronaut | audio sauce Paul pause |
| air | <i>Nessy Island 5 Lesson 48</i> | air fair pair stair | hair chair fairy dairy |
| ear | <i>Nessy Island 5 Lesson 48</i> | dear hear beard near year | ear rear spear tear |
| ear (/ɛə/) | <i>Nessy Island 5 Lesson 48</i> | bear pear wear sweat | |
| are (/ɛə/) | <i>Nessy Island 6 Lesson 54</i> | bare dare care share scared | rare fare spare square stare |

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Words ending –y (/i:/ or /ɪ/) | | very happy funny party family city baby body | fly lorry berry poppy spy try copy |
| New consonant spellings ph and wh | The /f/ sound is not usually spelt as ph in short everyday words (e.g. <i>fat, fill, fun</i>). <i>wh- Nessy Island 3 Lesson 23</i> <i>ph – Nessy Island 5 Lesson 41</i> | dolphin alphabet phonics elephant phone photo graph | when where which wheel while why which whale whip |
| Using k for the /k/ sound | The /k/ sound is spelt as k rather than as c before e, i and y . | Kent sketch kit skin frisky | king kiss kill keep |
| Adding the prefix – un | The prefix un– is added to the beginning of a word without any change to the spelling of the root word. | unhappy undo unload unfair unlock | undone unable unfit unkind unzip |
| Compound words | Compound words are two words joined together. Each part of the longer word is spelt as it would be if it were on its own. | football playground farmyard bedroom blackberry teacup | homework lampshade teapot seaside handbag inside |
| Common exception words | Pupils' attention should be drawn to the grapheme-phoneme correspondences that do and do not fit in with what has been taught so far. | 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 |

Spelling – work for year 2

Revision of work from year 1

As words with new GPCs are introduced, many previously-taught GPCs can be revised at the same time as these words will usually contain them.

New work for year 2

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | | Example words (non-statutory) | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| The /dʒ/ sound spelt as ge and dge at the end of words, and sometimes spelt as g elsewhere in words before e, i and y | <p>The letter j is never used for the /dʒ/ sound at the end of English words.</p> <p>At the end of a word, the /dʒ/ sound is spelt -dge straight after the /æ/, /e/, /ɪ/, /ɒ/, /ʌ/ and /ʊ/ sounds (sometimes called 'short' vowels).</p> <p>After all other sounds, whether vowels or consonants, the /dʒ/ sound is spelt as -ge at the end of a word.</p> <p>In other positions in words, the /dʒ/ sound is often (but not always) spelt as g before e, i, and y. The /dʒ/ sound is always spelt as j before a, o and u.</p> | badge edge bridge fudge dodge age join | change charge bulge village huge adjust jog | magic giraffe energy gem giant jar jacket |
| The /s/ sound spelt c before e, i and y | | | race ice cell lace pace space nice | city circle cinema circus mercy fancy rice |
| The /n/ sound spelt kn and (less often) gn at the beginning of words | The 'k' and 'g' at the beginning of these words was sounded hundreds of years ago. | | knit knob knock knowledge knee knapsack knuckle know knew | known knead kneel knight knot gnat gnaw gnome gnash |
| The /r/ sound spelt wr at the beginning of words | This spelling probably also reflects an old pronunciation. | | write wrote written wrestle wrist wrong answer sword | wren wrap wring wrapping wrapped wreck wriggle |
| The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt -le at the end of words | The -le spelling is the most common spelling for this sound at the end of words. | table apple bottle little middle puzzle candle | castle staple ripple topple sample people | cable tumble eagle angle jungle uncle |

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) | |
|---|--|---|---|
| The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt –el at the end of words | The –el spelling is much less common than –le . The –el spelling is used after m, n, r, s, v, w and more often than not after s . | angel wheel level model label hotel jewel | cruel camel tunnel squirrel towel tinsel |
| The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt –al at the end of words | Not many nouns end in –al , but many adjectives do. | metal pedal capital hospital animal local | vocal legal total mental petal |
| Words ending –il | There are not many of these words. | pencil fossil nostril basil peril pupil stencil | civil evil devil gerbil lentil April |
| The /aɪ/ sound spelt –y at the end of words | This is by far the most common spelling for this sound at the end of words. | cry fly dry try reply July | fry shy sky why sly defy |
| Adding –es to nouns and verbs ending in –y | The y is changed to i before –es is added. (Just the words that follow the rule.) | babies diaries copies carries tries flies replies | cities parties armies jellies fairies |
| Adding –ed, –ing, –er and –est to a root word ending in –y with a consonant before it | The y is changed to i before –ed , –er and –est are added, but not before –ing as this would result in ii . The only ordinary words with ii are <i>skiing</i> and <i>taxiing</i> . | copied copier happier happiest cried replied worrier worried | copying crying replying drying frying worrying carried carrier |
| Adding the endings –ing, –ed, –er, –est and –y to words ending in –e with a consonant before it | The –e at the end of the root word is dropped before –ing , –ed , –er , –est , –y or any other suffix beginning with a vowel letter is added. Exception: <i>being</i> . | hiking hiked hiked nicer nicest | shiny icy iced icing coming |

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Adding –ing, –ed, –er, –est and –y to words of one syllable ending in a single consonant letter after a single vowel letter | The last consonant letter of the root word is doubled to keep the /æ/, /ɛ/, /ɪ/, /ɒ/ and /ʌ/ sound (i.e. to keep the vowel 'short'). Exception: The letter 'x' is never doubled: <i>mixing, mixed, boxer, sixes</i> . | patting patted humming hummed dropping dropped sadder saddest | fatter fattest runner runny running hitting hitter |
| The /ɔ:/ sound spelt a before l and ll | The /ɔ:/ sound ('or') is usually spelt as a before l and ll. | ball call fall wall talk | walk always all tall mall |
| The /ʌ/ sound spelt o | | mother other brother nothing Monday love glove | come honey money dozen above done some |
| The /i:/ sound spelt –ey | The plural of these words is formed by the addition of –s (<i>donkeys, monkeys, etc.</i>). | key donkey monkey valley chimney alley | gallery jersey hockey money smiley |
| The /ɒ/ sound spelt a after w and qu | a is the most common spelling for the /ɒ/ ('hot') sound after w and qu . | want watch wander what wash was | wallet quarrel quantity quantity squad squash |
| The /ɜ:/ sound spelt or after w | There are not many of these words. | word work worm world | worth work worthy |
| The /ɔ:/ sound spelt ar after w | There are not many of these words. | war warmth warm | towards warble |
| The /ɜ/ sound spelt s | <i>I do not understand why treasure is in this sections as well as in –sure section.</i> | treasure usual | |
| The suffixes –ment, –ness, –ful, –less and –ly | If a suffix starts with a consonant letter, it is added straight on to most root words without any change to the last letter of those words. Exceptions: (1) <i>argument</i> (2) root words ending in –y with a | enjoyment payment movement sadness happiness darkness | helpful painful hopeful careful hopeless homeless |

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | | Example words (non-statutory) | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | consonant before it but only if the root word has more than one syllable. | | prettiness laziness | badly happily |
| Contractions | In contractions, the apostrophe shows where a letter or letters would be if the words were written in full (e.g. <i>can't</i> – <i>cannot</i>). <i>It's</i> means <i>it is</i> (e.g. <i>It's</i> raining) or sometimes <i>it has</i> (e.g. <i>It's</i> been raining), but <i>it's</i> is never used for the possessive. | | can't haven't didn't couldn't wouldn't shouldn't it's | I'll I'm you're you'll he'll doesn't |
| The possessive apostrophe (singular nouns) | | | Megan's, Ravi's, the girl's, the child's, the man's | |
| Words ending in –tion | | | station fiction motion national | section action |
| Homophones and near-homophones | It is important to know the difference in meaning between homophones. | | there/their/ they're here/hear quite/quiet see/sea bare/bear | one/won sun/son to/too/two be/bee blue/blew night/knight |
| Common exception words | Some words are exceptions in some accents but not in others – e.g. <i>past</i> , <i>last</i> , <i>fast</i> , <i>path</i> and <i>bath</i> are not exceptions in accents where the a in these words is pronounced /æ/, as in <i>cat</i> . <i>Great</i> , <i>break</i> and <i>steak</i> are the only common words where the /eɪ/ sound is spelt ea . – and/or others according to programme used. Note: 'children' is not an exception to what has been taught so far but is included because of its relationship with 'child'. | door floor poor because find kind mind behind child children* wild climb most only both old could should would | cold gold hold told every everybody even great break steak pretty beautiful after fast last past clothes busy people water money | father class grass pass plant path bath hour move prove improve sure sugar eye who whole any many again half Mr Mrs parents Christmas |

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| Spelling – work for years 3 and 4 |
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| Revision of work from years 1 and 2 |
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Pay special attention to the rules for adding suffixes.

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|-----------------------------------|
| New work for years 3 and 4 |
|-----------------------------------|

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) | |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1. Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable | If the last syllable of a word is stressed and ends with one consonant letter which has just one vowel letter before it, the final consonant letter is doubled before any ending beginning with a vowel letter is added. The consonant letter is not doubled if the syllable is unstressed. | forgetting forgotten beginning beginner begging hugged grabbed hopping | hoping prefer preferred gardener gardening limiting limitation limited |
| 2. The /ɪ/ sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words | These words should be learnt as needed. | myth gym Egypt mystery pyramid cygnet | lyric syrup system typical hymn crystal |
| 3. The /ʌ/ sound spelt ou | These words should be learnt as needed. | touch young double trouble country trouble couple | country cousin courage encourage flourish nourish |

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|------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| <p>4. More prefixes</p> | <p>Most prefixes are added to the beginning of root words without any changes in spelling, but see in- below.</p> <p>Like un-, the prefixes dis- and mis- have negative meanings.</p> <p>The prefix in- can mean both 'not' and 'in'/'into'. In the words given here it means 'not'. Before a root word starting with l, in- becomes il.</p> <p>Before a root word starting with m or p, in- becomes im-.</p> <p>Before a root word starting with r, in- becomes ir-.</p> <p>re- means 'again' or 'back'.</p> <p>sub- means 'under'.</p> <p>inter- means 'between' or 'among'.</p> <p>super- means 'above'.</p> | <p>dishearten dislike dislodge disappoint disagree disappear displease disqualify dishonest disconnect disinfect</p> <p>rebound rebuild recycle recall refill reform retreat return replace revisit replay rewrite submarine submerge</p> <p>antiseptic antisocial anticlockwise</p> | <p>miscount misdeal misfire misfortune mishear misinform misread misbehave misplace mistake miscalculate misplace unable unwell unhappy untidy untrained unlucky unpopular unpick unseen unusual undo untie unzip unofficial unusual undress</p> <p>interactive internet international interrelated</p> | <p>inactive incorrect indefinite incomplete</p> <p>illegal illegible</p> <p>immature immortal impossible impatient impossible impolite impure</p> <p>irregular irrelevant irresponsible</p> <p>superhero superman supermarket superstar</p> <p>autobiography autograph automatic automobile</p> <p>subway subdivide subheading</p> |
| <p>5. The suffix -ation</p> | <p>The suffix -ation is added to verbs to form nouns. The rules already learnt still apply.</p> | <p>information adoration sensation preparation admiration station preparation</p> | <p>vibration decoration donation coronation duration registration population</p> | |
| <p>6. The suffix -ly</p> | <p>The suffix -ly is added to an adjective to form an adverb. The rules already learnt still apply.</p> <p>The suffix -ly starts with a consonant letter, so it is added straight on to most root words.</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <p>(1) If the root word ends in -y with a consonant letter before it, the y is changed to i, but only if the root word has more than one syllable.</p> | <p>sadly, completely usually finally comically badly happily strangely really</p> <p>gently</p> | <p>suddenly actually loudly quickly carefully probably unhappily easily luckily angrily</p> | |

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|---|---|--|--|
| | <p>(2) If the root word ends with -le, the -le is changed to -ly.</p> <p>(3) If the root word ends with -ic, -ally is added rather than just -ly, except in the word <i>publicly</i>.</p> <p>(4) The words <i>truly, duly, wholly</i>.</p> | <p>simply humbly nobly</p> | <p>basically frantically dramatically</p> |
| 7. Words with endings sounding like /ʒə/ or /tʃə/ | <p>The ending sounding like /ʒə/ is always spelt -sure.</p> <p>The ending sounding like /tʃə/ is often spelt -ture, but check that the word is not a root word ending in (t)ch with an er ending – e.g. <i>teacher, catcher, richer, stretcher</i>.</p> | <p>measure treasure pleasure enclosure</p> <p>adventure feature feature creature furniture</p> | <p>mixture picture nature adventure</p> <p>stretcher catcher</p> <p>richer teacher</p> |
| 8. Endings which sound like /ʒən/ | <p>If the ending sounds like /ʒən/, it is spelt as -sion.</p> | | <p>division invasion confusion decision collision television</p> |
| 9. The suffix -ous | <p>Sometimes the root word is obvious and the usual rules apply for adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters.</p> <p>Sometimes there is no obvious root word.</p> <p>-our is changed to -or before -ous is added.</p> <p>A final 'e' of the root word must be kept if the /dʒ/ sound of 'g' is to be kept.</p> <p>If there is an /i:/ sound before the -ous ending, it is usually spelt as i, but a few words have e.</p> | <p>poisonous dangerous mountainous famous various tremendous enormous jealous humorous glamorous vigorous</p> <p>courageous outrageous</p> | <p>serious obvious curious</p> <p>hideous spontaneous courteous</p> |

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 10. Endings which sound like /ʃən/, spelt –tion, –sion, –ssion, –cian | <p>Strictly speaking, the suffixes are –ion and –ian. Clues about whether to put t, s, ss or c before these suffixes often come from the last letter or letters of the root word.</p> <p>–tion is the most common spelling. It is used if the root word ends in t or te.</p> <p>–ssion is used if the root word ends in ss or –mit.</p> <p>–sion is used if the root word ends in d or se.</p> <p>Exceptions: <i>attend</i> – <i>attention</i>, <i>intend</i> – <i>intention</i>.</p> <p>–cian is used if the root word ends in c or cs.</p> | invention injection action hesitation completion fraction detention mention expression discussion confession permission admission progression expansion extension | comprehension tension session musician optician electrician magician politician mathematician |
| 11. Words with the /k/ sound spelt ch (Greek in origin) | | scheme chorus chemist echo character ache | orchid architect orchestra mechanic stomach |
| 12. Words with the /ʃ/ sound spelt ch (mostly French in origin) | | chalet chef machine | brochure parachute chute |
| 13. Words ending with the /g/ sound spelt –gue and the /k/ sound spelt –que (French in origin) | | league tongue catalogue dialogue epilogue vague rogue | antique unique boutique picturesque mosque cheque |
| 14. Words with the /s/ sound spelt sc (Latin in origin) | In the Latin words from which these words come, the Romans probably pronounced the c and the k as two sounds rather than one – /s/ /k/. | science scene discipline fascinate | crescent scissors descend ascent |
| 15. Words with the /eɪ/ sound spelt ei, eigh, or ey | | sleigh neigh eight weight neighbour | vein they convey obey grey |
| 16. Possessive apostrophe with plural words | The apostrophe is placed after the plural form of the word; – s is not added if the plural already ends in – s , but <i>is</i> added if the plural does not end in – s (i.e. is an irregular plural – e.g. <i>children's</i>). | girls', boys', babies', children's, men's, mice's (Note: singular proper nouns ending in an <i>s</i> use the 's suffix e.g. Cyprus's population) | |

17. Homophones and
near-homophones

| | |
|--------|---------|
| accept | mail |
| except | male |
| affect | main |
| effect | mane |
| ball | meat |
| bawl | meet |
| berry | medal |
| bury | meddle |
| brake | missed |
| break | mist |
| fair | peace |
| fare | piece |
| grate | plain |
| great | plane |
| groan | rain |
| grown | rein |
| here | reign |
| hear | scene |
| heel | seen |
| heal | weather |
| he'll | whether |
| knot | whose |
| not | who's |

Word list – years 3 and 4

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Y3 T1 | Y3 T2 | Y3 T3 | Y3 T4 |
| 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 |
| Y3 T5 | Y3 T6 | Y4 T1 | Y4 T2 |
| through various weight woman/women occasion(ally) special notice | experiment extreme famous favourite February forward(s) fruit grammar | often opposite ordinary particular peculiar perhaps popular position | possess(ion) possible potatoes pressure probably promise purpose quarter minute |
| Y4 T3 | Y4 T4 | Y4 T5 | Y4 T6 |
| question recent regular reign remember sentence separate material medicine | increase important interest island knowledge learn length library mention | straight strange strength suppose surprise therefore though although thought | group guard guide heard heart height history imagine naughty natural |

Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Teachers should continue to emphasise to pupils the relationships between sounds and letters, even when the relationships are unusual. Once root words are learnt in this way, longer words can be spelt correctly, if the rules and guidance for adding prefixes and suffixes are also known.

Examples:

business: once *busy* is learnt, with due attention to the unusual spelling of the /i/ sound as 'u', *business* can then be spelt as **busy + ness**, with the **y** of **busy** changed to **i** according to the rule.

disappear: the root word *appear* contains sounds which can be spelt in more than one way so it needs to be learnt, but the prefix **dis-** is then simply added to **appear**.

Understanding the relationships between words can also help with spelling. Examples:

- *bicycle* is *cycle* (from the Greek for *wheel*) with **bi-** (meaning 'two') before it.
- *medicine* is related to *medical* so the /s/ sound is spelt as **c**. *opposite* is related to *oppose*, so the schwa sound in *opposite* is spelt as **o**.

Spelling – years 5 and 6

Revise work done in previous years

New work for years 5 and 6

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) | |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1. Endings which sound like /ʃəs/ spelt –cious or –tious | <p>Not many common words end like this.</p> <p>If the root word ends in –ce, the /ʃ/ sound is usually spelt as c – e.g. <i>vice</i> – <i>vicious</i>, <i>grace</i> – <i>gracious</i>, <i>space</i> – <i>spacious</i>, <i>malice</i> – <i>malicious</i>.</p> <p>Exception: <i>anxious</i>.</p> | vicious precious conscious delicious malicious suspicious suspicious unconscious conscious precious | ambitious cautious fictitious infectious nutritious ambitious superstitious nutritious surreptitious |
| 2. Endings which sound like /ʃəl/ | <p>–cial is common after a vowel letter and –tial after a consonant letter, but there are some exceptions.</p> <p>Exceptions: initial, financial, commercial, provincial (the spelling of the last three is clearly related to <i>finance</i>, <i>commerce</i> and <i>province</i>).</p> | official special artificial beneficial commercial crucial facial glacial | social partial confidential essential initial partial essential potential |
| 3. Words ending in –ant, –ance/–ancy, –ent, –ence/–ency | <p>Use –ant and –ance/–ancy if there is a related word with a /æ/ or /eɪ/ sound in the right position; –ation endings are often a clue.</p> <p>Use –ent and –ence/–ency after soft c (/s/ sound), soft g (/dʒ/ sound) and qu, or if there is a related word with a clear /ɛ/ sound in the right position.</p> <p>There are many words, however, where the above guidance does not help. These words just have to be learnt.</p> | observant observance observ <u>a</u> tion expectant expect <u>a</u> tion hesitant hesitancy hesit <u>a</u> tion tolerant tolerance toler <u>a</u> tion substance subst <u>a</u> ntial innocent innocence frequent | frequency agency agent decent decency frequent frequency confident confidence confidential assistant assistance obedient obedience independent independence |

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | | Example words (non-statutory) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|-------------|-------------|------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| <p>4. Words ending in -able and -ible</p> <p>Words ending in -ably and -ibly</p> | <p>The -able/-ably endings are far more common than the -ible/-ibly endings. As with -ant and -ance/-ancy, the -able ending is used if there is a related word ending in -ation.</p> <p>If the -able ending is added to a word ending in -ce or -ge, the e after the c or g must be kept as those letters would otherwise have their 'hard' sounds (as in <i>cap</i> and <i>gap</i>) before the a of the -able ending.</p> <p>The -able ending is usually but not always used if a complete root word can be heard before it, even if there is no related word ending in -ation. The first five examples opposite are obvious; in <i>reliable</i>, the complete word <i>rely</i> is heard, but the y changes to i in accordance with the rule.</p> <p>The -ible ending is common if a complete root word can't be heard before it but it also sometimes occurs when a complete word <i>can</i> be heard (e.g. <i>sensible</i>).</p> | | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>adorable</td> <td>reasonable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>adorably</td> <td>enjoyable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>adoration</td> <td>forcible</td> </tr> <tr> <td>applicable</td> <td>legible</td> </tr> <tr> <td>applicably</td> <td>reliable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>application</td> <td>possible</td> </tr> <tr> <td>considerable</td> <td>possibly</td> </tr> <tr> <td>considerably</td> <td>horrible</td> </tr> <tr> <td>consideration</td> <td>horribly</td> </tr> <tr> <td>tolerable</td> <td>terrible</td> </tr> <tr> <td>tolerably</td> <td>terribly</td> </tr> <tr> <td>toleration</td> <td>visible</td> </tr> <tr> <td>changeable</td> <td>visibly</td> </tr> <tr> <td>noticeable</td> <td>incredible</td> </tr> <tr> <td>dependable</td> <td>incredibly</td> </tr> <tr> <td>comfortable</td> <td>sensible</td> </tr> <tr> <td>understandable</td> <td>sensibly</td> </tr> </table> | adorable | reasonable | adorably | enjoyable | adoration | forcible | applicable | legible | applicably | reliable | application | possible | considerable | possibly | considerably | horrible | consideration | horribly | tolerable | terrible | tolerably | terribly | toleration | visible | changeable | visibly | noticeable | incredible | dependable | incredibly | comfortable | sensible | understandable | sensibly |
| adorable | reasonable | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| adorably | enjoyable | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| adoration | forcible | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| applicable | legible | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| applicably | reliable | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| application | possible | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| considerable | possibly | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| considerably | horrible | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| consideration | horribly | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| tolerable | terrible | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| tolerably | terribly | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| toleration | visible | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| changeable | visibly | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| noticeable | incredible | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| dependable | incredibly | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| comfortable | sensible | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| understandable | sensibly | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>5. Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in -fer</p> | <p>The r is doubled if the -fer is still stressed when the ending is added.</p> <p>The r is not doubled if the -fer is no longer stressed.</p> | | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>referring</td> <td>transferred</td> </tr> <tr> <td>referred</td> <td>reference</td> </tr> <tr> <td>referral</td> <td>referee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>preferring</td> <td>preference</td> </tr> <tr> <td>preferred</td> <td>transference</td> </tr> <tr> <td>transferring</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | referring | transferred | referred | reference | referral | referee | preferring | preference | preferred | transference | transferring | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| referring | transferred | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| referred | reference | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| referral | referee | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| preferring | preference | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| preferred | transference | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| transferring | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>6. Use of the hyphen</p> | <p>Hyphens can be used to join a prefix to a root word, especially if the prefix ends in a vowel letter and the root word also begins with one.</p> | | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>co-ordinate</td> <td>ex-convict</td> </tr> <tr> <td>co-operate</td> <td>all-inclusive</td> </tr> <tr> <td>co-own</td> <td>self-addressed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>re-enter</td> <td>non-refundable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>re-elect</td> <td>non-toxic</td> </tr> <tr> <td>re-educate</td> <td>self-esteem</td> </tr> <tr> <td>cross-reference</td> <td>self-portrait</td> </tr> <tr> <td>cross-section</td> <td>mid-February</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ex-boyfriend</td> <td>mid-Atlantic</td> </tr> </table> | co-ordinate | ex-convict | co-operate | all-inclusive | co-own | self-addressed | re-enter | non-refundable | re-elect | non-toxic | re-educate | self-esteem | cross-reference | self-portrait | cross-section | mid-February | ex-boyfriend | mid-Atlantic | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| co-ordinate | ex-convict | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| co-operate | all-inclusive | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| co-own | self-addressed | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| re-enter | non-refundable | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| re-elect | non-toxic | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| re-educate | self-esteem | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| cross-reference | self-portrait | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| cross-section | mid-February | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ex-boyfriend | mid-Atlantic | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 7. Words with the /i:/ sound spelt ei after c | The 'i before e except after c' rule applies to words where the sound spelt by ei is /i:/. Exceptions: <i>protein, caffeine, seize</i> (and <i>either</i> and <i>neither</i> if pronounced with an initial /i:/ sound). | conceit ceiling deceive perceive receipt deceit conceive receive | |
| 8. Words containing the letter-string ough | ough is one of the trickiest spellings in English – it can be used to spell a number of different sounds. | enough rough tough ought bought thought brought fought nought though | although dough through thorough borough plough bough cough |
| 9. Words with 'silent' letters (i.e. letters whose presence cannot be predicted from the pronunciation of the word) | Some letters which are no longer sounded used to be sounded hundreds of years ago: e.g. in <i>knight</i> , there was a /k/ sound before the /n/, and the gh used to represent the sound that 'ch' now represents in the Scottish word <i>loch</i> . (words with silent 'w's are in Year 2 spellings) | doubt lamb lamb limb tomb knight island solemn thistle | whistle listen plumber gnome gnat gnash foreign sign column |

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10. Homophones and other words that are often confused | In the pairs of words opposite, nouns end -ce and verbs end -se . <i>Advice</i> and <i>advise</i> provide a useful clue as the word <i>advise</i> (verb) is pronounced with a /z/ sound – which could not be spelt c . | advice/advise device/devise licence/license practice/practise prophecy/prophesy aisle/isle aloud/allowed affect/effect alter/altar ascent/assent bridal/bridle cereal/serial compliment/complement farther /father | guessed/guest heard/herd lead/led morning/mourning past/passed precede/proceed descent/dissent desert/dessert draft/draught principal/principle profit/prophet stationary/stationery steal/steel wary/weary who's/whose |

Word list – years 5 and 6

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| Y5 T1 | Y5 T2 | Y5 T3 | Y5 T4 |
| accommodate accompany according achieve aggressive amateur ancient apparent | appreciate attached available average awkward bargain bruise category | cemetery committee communicate community competition conscience* conscious* controversy | dictionary disastrous embarrass environment equipped/ment especially exaggerate excellent existence |
| Y5 T5 | Y5 T6 | Y6 T1 | Y6 T2 |
| convenience correspond criticise (critic + ise) curiosity definite desperate determined develop | pronunciation queue recognise recommend relevant restaurant rhyme rhythm sacrifice | secretary shoulder signature sincere(ly) soldier stomach sufficient suggest explanation | symbol system temperature thorough twelfth variety vegetable vehicle yacht |
| Y6 T3 | Y6 T4 | Y6 T5 | Y6 T6 |
| opportunity parliament persuade physical prejudice privilege profession programme | marvellous mischievous muscle necessary neighbour nuisance occupy occur | identity immediate(ly) individual interfere interrupt language leisure lightning | familiar foreign forty frequently government guarantee harass hindrance |

Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Teachers should continue to emphasis to pupils the relationships between sounds and letters, even when the relationships are unusual. Once root words are learnt in this way, longer words can be spelt correctly if the rules and guidance for adding prefixes and suffixes are also known. Many of the words in the list above can be used for practice in adding suffixes.

Understanding the history of words and relationships between them can also help with spelling.

Examples:

- *Conscience* and *conscious* are related to *science*: *conscience* is simply *science* with the prefix *con-* added. These words come from the Latin word *scio* meaning *I know*.
- The word *desperate*, meaning 'without hope', is often pronounced in English as *desp'rate*, but the *-sper-* part comes from the Latin *spero*, meaning 'I hope', in which the *e* was clearly sounded.

Familiar is related to *family*, so the /ə/ sound in the first syllable of *familiar* is spelt as **a**.