spelling progression ks1 &ks2

| Spelling – work for year 1 (Revision of reception work) |
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| 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
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| Statutory requirements |  | Rules and guidance (non‑statutory) | Example words (non‑statutory) |
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| 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, well, miss, buzz, back |
| The /ŋ/ sound spelt n before k |  |  | bank, think, honk, sunk |
| 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. | pocket, rabbit, carrot, thunder, sunset |

| Statutory requirements |  | Rules and guidance (non‑statutory) | Example words (non‑statutory) |
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| -tch |  | The /tʃ/ sound is usually spelt as **tch** if it comes straightafter a single vowel letter. **Exceptions**: rich, which, much, such. | catch, fetch, kitchen, notch, hutch |
| 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 |
| 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, catches |
| 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. | hunting, hunted, hunter, buzzing, buzzed, buzzer, jumping, jumped, jumper |
| 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, quicker, quickest |

### 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. | rain, wait, train, paid, afraid, oil, join, coin, point, soil |
| ay, oy |  | **ay** and **oy** are used for those sounds at the end of words and at the end of syllables. | day, play, say, way, stay, boy, toy, enjoy, annoy |
| a–e |  |  | made, came, same, take, safe |
| e–e |  |  | these, theme, complete |
| i–e |  |  | five, ride, like, time, side |
| o–e |  |  | home, those, woke, hope, hole |
| u–e |  | Both the /u:/ and /ju:/ (‘oo’ and ‘yoo’) sounds can be spelt as **u–e**. | June, rule, rude, use, tube, tune |
| ar |  |  | car, start, park, arm, garden |
| ee |  |  | see, tree, green, meet, week |
| ea (/i:/) |  |  | sea, dream, meat, each, read (present tense) |
| ea (/ɛ/) |  |  | head, bread, meant, instead, read (past tense) |
| er (/ɜ:/) |  |  | (stressed sound): her, term, verb, person |
| er (/ə/) |  |  | (unstressed *schwa* sound): better, under, summer, winter, sister |
| ir |  |  | girl, bird, shirt, first, third |
| ur |  |  | turn, hurt, church, burst, Thursday |

| Vowel digraphs and trigraphs |  | Rules and guidance (non‑statutory) | Example words (non‑statutory) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| oo (/u:/) |  | 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, *zoo* | food, pool, moon, zoo, soon |
| oo (/ʊ/) |  |  | book, took, foot, wood, good |
| oa |  | The digraph **oa** is very rare at the end of an English word. | boat, coat, road, coach, goal |
| oe |  |  | toe, goes |
| ou |  | The only common English word ending in **ou** is *you*. | out, about, mouth, around, sound |
| ow (/aʊ/) ow (/əʊ/)ueew |  | 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**. | now, how, brown, down, townown, blow, snow, grow, showblue, clue, true, rescue, Tuesdaynew, few, grew, flew, drew, threw |
| ie (/aɪ/) |  |  | lie, tie, pie, cried, tried, dried |
| ie (/i:/) |  |  | chief, field, thief |
| igh |  |  | high, night, light, bright, right |
| or |  |  | for, short, born, horse, morning |
| ore |  |  | more, score, before, wore, shore |
| aw |  |  | saw, draw, yawn, crawl |
| au |  |  | author, August, dinosaur, astronaut |
| air |  |  | air, fair, pair, hair, chair |
| ear |  |  | dear, hear, beard, near, year |
| ear (/ɛə/) |  |  | bear, pear, wear |
| are (/ɛə/) |  |  | bare, dare, care, share, scared |



| Spelling – work for year 2 |
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| Revision of work from year 1 |
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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 |
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| 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 |  | The letter j is never used for the /dʒ/ sound at the end of English words.At the end of a word, the /dʒ/ sound is spelt –**dge** straight after the /æ/, /ɛ/, /ɪ/, /ɒ/, /ʌ/ and /ʊ/ sounds (sometimes called ‘short’ vowels).After all other sounds, whether vowels or consonants, the /dʒ/ sound is spelt as –**ge** at the end of a word.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. | badge, edge, bridge, dodge, fudgeage, huge, change, charge, bulge, villagegem, giant, magic, giraffe, energyjacket, jar, jog, join, adjust |
| The /s/ sound spelt c before e, i and y |  |  | race, ice, cell, city, fancy |
| 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. | knock, know, knee, gnat, gnaw |
| The /r/ sound spelt wrat the beginning of words |  | This spelling probably also reflects an old pronunciation. | write, written, wrote, wrong, wrap |
| 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 |

| 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**. | camel, tunnel, squirrel, travel, 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 |
| Words ending –il |  | There are not many of these words. | pencil, fossil, nostril |
| 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 |
| Adding –es to nouns and verbs ending in –y |  | The **y** is changed to **i** before **–es** is added. | flies, tries, replies, copies, babies, carries |
| 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 *skiing* and *taxiing*. | copied, copier, happier, happiest, cried, replied…**but** copying, crying, replying |
| 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**: *being.* | hiking, hiked, hiker, nicer, nicest, shiny |
| 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: *mixing*, *mixed*, *boxer*, *sixes*. | patting, patted, humming, hummed, dropping, dropped, sadder, saddest, fatter, fattest, runner, runny |
| The /ɔ:/ sound spelt a before l and ll |  | The **/**ɔ:**/** sound (‘or’) is usually spelt as **a** before **l** and **ll**. | all, ball, call, walk, talk, always |
| The /ʌ/ sound spelt o |  |  | other, mother, brother, nothing, Monday |

| Statutory requirements |  | Rules and guidance (non‑statutory) | Example words (non‑statutory) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The /i:/ sound spelt –ey |  | The plural of these words is formed by the addition of **–s** (*donkeys*, *monkeys,* etc.). | key, donkey, monkey, chimney, valley |
| 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, quantity, squash |
| The /ɜ:/ sound spelt or after w |  | There are not many of these words. | word, work, worm, world, worth |
| The /ɔ:/ sound spelt ar after w |  | There are not many of these words. | war, warm, towards |
| The /ʒ/ sound spelt s |  |  | television, 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) *argument*(2) root words ending in –**y** with a consonant before it but only if the root word has more than one syllable. | enjoyment, sadness, careful, playful, hopeless, plainness (plain + ness), badlymerriment, happiness, plentiful, penniless, happily |
| Contractions |  | In contractions, the apostrophe shows where a letter or letters would be if the words were written in full (e.g. *can’t* – *cannot*).*It’s* means *it is* (e.g. *It’s* raining) or sometimes *it has* (e.g. *It’s* been raining), but *it’s* is never used for the possessive. | can’t, didn’t, hasn’t, couldn’t, it’s, I’ll |
| 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 |

| Statutory requirements |  | Rules and guidance (non‑statutory) | Example words (non‑statutory) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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. *past*, *last*, *fast*, *path* and *bath* are not exceptions in accents where the **a** in these words is pronounced /æ/, as in *cat*.*Great*, *break* and *steak* are the only common words where the /eɪ/ sound is spelt **ea**. | 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 – 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’. |



| 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.

| New work for years 3/4 and 4 |
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| Statutory requirements |  | Rules and guidance (non‑statutory) | Example words (non‑statutory) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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, prefer, preferredgardening, gardener, limiting, limited, limitation |
| The /ɪ/ sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words |  | These words should be learnt as needed. | myth, gym, Egypt, pyramid, mystery |
| The /ʌ/ sound spelt ou |  | These words should be learnt as needed. | young, touch, double, trouble, country |
| More prefixes |  | Most prefixes are added to the beginning of root words without any changes in spelling, but see **in–** below. |  |
|  |  | Like **un–**, the prefixes **dis–** and **mis–** have negative meanings. | **dis–**: disappoint, disagree, disobey**mis–**: misbehave, mislead, misspell (mis + spell) |
|  |  | The prefix **in–** can mean both ‘not’ and ‘in’/‘into’. In the words given here it means ‘not’. | **in–**: inactive, incorrect |

| Statutory requirements |  | Rules and guidance (non‑statutory) | Example words (non‑statutory) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Before a root word starting with **l**, **in–** becomes **il**. | illegal, illegible |
|  |  | Before a root word starting with **m** or **p**, **in–** becomes **im–**. | immature, immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect |
|  |  | Before a root word starting with **r**, **in–** becomes **ir–**. | irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible |
|  |  | **re–** means ‘again’ or ‘back’. | **re–**: redo, refresh, return, reappear, redecorate |
|  |  | **sub–** means ‘under’. | **sub–**: subdivide, subheading, submarine, submerge |
|  |  | **inter–** means ‘between’ or ‘among’. | **inter–**: interact, intercity, international, interrelated (inter + related) |
|  |  | **super–** means ‘above’. | **super–**: supermarket, superman, superstar |
|  |  | **anti–** means ‘against’. | **anti–**: antiseptic, anti-clockwise, antisocial |
|  |  | **auto–** means ‘self’ or ‘own’. | **auto–**: autobiography, autograph |
| The suffix –ation |  | The suffix **–ation** is added to verbs to form nouns. The rules already learnt still apply. | information, adoration, sensation, preparation, admiration |
| The suffix –ly |  | The suffix **–ly** is added to an adjective to form an adverb. The rules already learnt still apply.The suffix **–ly** starts with a consonant letter, so it is added straight on to most root words. | sadly, completely, usually (usual + ly), finally (final + ly), comically (comical + ly) |

| Statutory requirements |  | Rules and guidance (non‑statutory) | Example words (non‑statutory) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Exceptions**:(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. | happily, angrily |
|  |  | (2) If the root word ends with **–le**, the **–le** is changed to **–ly**. | gently, simply, humbly, nobly |
|  |  | (3/4) If the root word ends with **–ic**, **–ally** is added rather than just **–ly**, except in the word *publicly*. | basically, frantically, dramatically |
|  |  | (4) The words *truly*, *duly*, *wholly.* |  |
| Words with endings sounding like /ʒə/ or /tʃə/ |  | The ending sounding like **/**ʒə**/** is always spelt –**sure**.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. *teacher, catcher, richer, stretcher.* | measure, treasure, pleasure, enclosurecreature, furniture, picture, nature, adventure |
| Endings which sound like /ʒən/ |  | If the ending sounds like **/**ʒən**/**, it is spelt as **–sion**. | division, invasion, confusion, decision, collision, television |
| The suffix –ous |  | Sometimes the root word is obvious and the usual rules apply for adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters.Sometimes there is no obvious root word.**–our** is changed to **–or** before **–ous** is added.A final ‘e’ of the root word must be kept if the /dʒ/ sound of ‘g’ is to be kept.If there is an /i:/ sound before the **–ous** ending, it is usually spelt as **i**, but a few words have **e**. | poisonous, dangerous, mountainous, famous, varioustremendous, enormous, jealoushumorous, glamorous, vigorouscourageous, outrageousserious, obvious, curioushideous, spontaneous, courteous |

| Statutory requirements |  | Rules and guidance (non‑statutory) | Example words (non‑statutory) |
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| Endings which sound like /ʃən/, spelt –tion, –sion, –ssion, –cian |  | 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.**–tion** is the most common spelling. It is used if the root word ends in **t** or **te**.**–ssion** is used if the root word ends in **ss** or –**mit**.**–sion** is used if the root word ends in **d** or **se**.**Exceptions**: *attend – attention*, *intend – intention.***–cian** is used if the root word ends in **c** or **cs**. | invention, injection, action, hesitation, completionexpression, discussion, confession, permission, admissionexpansion, extension, comprehension, tensionmusician, electrician, magician, politician, mathematician |
| Words with the /k/ sound spelt ch (Greek in origin) |  |  | scheme, chorus, chemist, echo, character |
| Words with the /ʃ/ sound spelt ch (mostly French in origin) |  |  | chef, chalet, machine, brochure |
| Words ending with the /g/ sound spelt –gue and the /k/ sound spelt –que (French in origin) |  |  | league, tongue, antique, unique |
| 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 |
| Words with the /eɪ/ sound spelt ei, eigh, or ey |  |  | vein, weigh, eight, neighbour, they, obey |

| Statutory requirements |  | Rules and guidance (non‑statutory) | Example words (non‑statutory) |
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| 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 *is* added if the plural does not end in **–s** (i.e. is an irregular plural – e.g. *children’s*). | girls’, boys’, babies’, children’s, men’s, mice’s(**Note:** singular proper nouns ending in an *s* use the ’s suffix e.g. Cyprus’s population) |
| Homophones and near-homophones |  |  | accept/except, affect/effect, ball/bawl, berry/bury, brake/break, fair/fare, grate/great, groan/grown, here/hear, heel/heal/he’ll, knot/not, mail/male, main/mane, meat/meet, medal/meddle, missed/mist, peace/piece, plain/plane, rain/rein/reign, scene/seen, weather/whether, whose/who’s |

| Notes and guidance (non-statutory) |
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| 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**.
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Please note there are some words on the statutory word lists that do not appear on here as they do not fit into the curriculum areas.

**Year 3 and 4 word list groups**

| **Science** | **Maths** | **Language of learning** | **Geography** | **Literacy language** | **Histor**y |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| materialnaturalexperimentpressureseparatemedicinebreath/eheart | circlecentreeight/hquarterweightheightgrouplengthminuteincreaseoppositecentury | completeconsidercontinuedecideanswerdescribeguideimagineinterestknowledgelearnpurposerememberthoughtdifficult | islandearth | librarysentencequestiongrammardescribeansweraddresspossession  | historyreignfamouscenturyrecentwoman/women |
| **Time words** | **Unstressed vowels** | **Music** | **Connecting adverbials** | **Hypothetical language** | **Rare GPCs** |
| regular occasionallyoftenearlyminuterecentcalendar | Februarybusinessinterestordinaryseparate | rhymerhythm | thoughalthoughtherefore | perhapspossibleprobablysuppose | guardguide |

| Spelling – years 5 and 6 |
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| Revise work done in previous years |
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| New work for years 5 and 6 |
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| Statutory requirements |  | Rules and guidance (non‑statutory) | Example words (non‑statutory) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Endings which sound like /ʃəs/ spelt –cious or –tious |  | Not many common words end like this.If the root word ends in **–ce**, the /ʃ/ sound is usually spelt as **c** – e.g. *vice – vicious*, *grace – gracious*, *space – spacious*, *malice – malicious.***Exception**: *anxious*. | vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspiciousambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious |
| Endings which sound like /ʃəl/ |  | **–cial** is common after a vowel letter and **–tial** after a consonant letter, but there are some exceptions.**Exceptions**: initial, financial, commercial, provincial (the spelling of the last three is clearly related to *finance*, *commerce* and *province*). | official, special, artificial, partial, confidential, essential |
| Words ending in –ant, –ance/–ancy, –ent, –ence/–ency |  | 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.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.There are many words, however, where the above guidance does not help. These words just have to be learnt. | observant, observance, (observation), expectant (expectation), hesitant, hesitancy (hesitation), tolerant, tolerance (toleration), substance (substantial)innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, confident, confidence (confidential)assistant, assistance, obedient, obedience, independent, independence |

| Statutory requirements |  | Rules and guidance (non‑statutory) | Example words (non‑statutory) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Words ending in –able and –ibleWords ending in –ably and –ibly |  | 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**.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 *cap* and *gap*)before the **a** of the **–able** ending.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 *reliable*, the complete word *rely* is heard, but the **y** changes to **i** in accordance with the rule.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 *can* be heard (e.g. *sensible*). | adorable/adorably (adoration),applicable/applicably (application), considerable/considerably (consideration), tolerable/tolerably (toleration)changeable, noticeable, forcible, legibledependable, comfortable, understandable, reasonable, enjoyable, reliablepossible/possibly, horrible/horribly, terrible/terribly, visible/visibly, incredible/incredibly, sensible/sensibly |
| Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in –fer |  | The **r** is doubled if the **–fer** is still stressed when the ending is added.The **r** is not doubled if the **–fer** is no longer stressed. | referring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, transferring, transferredreference, referee, preference, transference |
| Use of the hyphen |  | 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. | co-ordinate, re-enter, co-operate, co-own |

| Statutory requirements |  | Rules and guidance (non‑statutory) | Example words (non‑statutory) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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**: *protein*, *caffeine*, *seize* (and *either* and *neither* if pronounced with an initial /i:/ sound)*.* | deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling |
| 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. | ought, bought, thought, nought, brought, foughtrough, tough, enough, cough, though, although, dough, through, thorough, borough, plough, bough |
| 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 *knight*,there was a /k/ sound before the /n/, and the **gh** used to represent the sound that ‘ch’ now represents in the Scottish word *loch.* | doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight |

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| Homophones and other words that are often confused |  | In the pairs of words opposite, nouns end **–ce** and verbs end **–se**. *Advice* and *advise* provide a useful clue as the word *advise* (verb) is pronounced with a /z/ sound – which could not be spelt **c**.More examples:aisle: a gangway between seats (in a church, train, plane).isle: an island.aloud: out loud.allowed: permitted.affect: usually a verb (e.g. *The weather may affect our plans*).effect: usually a noun (e.g. *It may have an effect on our plans*). If a verb, it means ‘bring about’ (e.g. *He will effect changes in the running of the business*).altar: a table-like piece of furniture in a church.alter: to change.ascent: the act of ascending (going up).assent: to agree/agreement (verb and noun).bridal: to do with a bride at a wedding.bridle: reins etc. for controlling a horse.cereal: made from grain (e.g. breakfast cereal).serial: adjective from the noun *series* – a succession of things one after the other.compliment: to make nice remarks about someone (verb) or the remark that is made (noun).complement: related to the word *complete* – to make something complete or more complete (e.g. *her scarf complemented her outfit*).descent: the act of descending (going down).dissent: to disagree/disagreement (verb and noun).desert: as a noun – a barren place (stress on first syllable); as a verb – to abandon (stress on second syllable)dessert: (stress on second syllable) a sweet course after the main course of a meal.draft: noun – a first attempt at writing something; verb – to make the first attempt; also, to draw in someone (e.g. *to draft in extra help*)draught: a current of air. | advice/advisedevice/deviselicence/licensepractice/practiseprophecy/prophesyfarther: furtherfather: a male parentguessed: past tense of the verb *guess*guest: visitorheard: past tense of the verb *hear*herd: a group of animalsled: past tense of the verb *lead*lead: present tense of that verb, or else the metal which is very heavy (*as heavy as lead*)morning: before noonmourning: grieving for someone who has diedpast: noun or adjective referring to a previous time (e.g. *In the past*) or preposition or adverb showing place (e.g. *he walked past me*)passed: past tense of the verb ‘pass’ (e.g. *I passed him in the road*)precede: go in front of or beforeproceed: go onprincipal: adjective – most important (e.g. *principal ballerina*) noun – important person (e.g. *principal of a college*)principle: basic truth or beliefprofit: money that is made in selling thingsprophet: someone who foretells the futurestationary: not movingstationery: paper, envelopes etc.steal: take something that does not belong to yousteel: metalwary: cautiousweary: tiredwho’s: contraction of *who is* or *who has*whose: belonging to someone (e.g. *Whose jacket is that?*) |

| Notes and guidance (non-statutory) |
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| 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**.
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Words in bold do not appear in the cross-curricular word list.

| **Science** | **Maths** | **Writing** | **Geography** | **Spoken language** | **Histor**y |
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| consciousenvironmentequipmentphysicalstomachtemperaturesystemshouldermuscle | twelfthfortyaverage | correspondsincerelysignaturedictionaryattachedlanguagecommunicatepersuade | environmentexistenceforeignlightning | communicaterelevantinterruptlanguageexplanationsuggestpronunciationexaggeratecriticisepersuade | ancientforeigngovernmentparliamentsoldiersystemsacrificeprivilege |
| **Occupations** | **Unstressed vowels** | **Music** | **Language of learning** | **Rare GPCs** |  |
| professionsecretarysoldiercommitteeamateurneighbour | restauranttemperaturevegetableindividualcemeterydesperatedefinite | rhymerhythm | achieveexcellentthoroughindividual | bruiseguaranteeimmediatelyqueuevehicleyacht |  |