

Year 1

Please note: Year 1 children must have ample opportunities to apply their phonic knowledge in spellings.

1. Common Exception Words for Year 1: (N.B: Children also need to be able to spell the decodable words for Year 1 Phases 2-5)

Phase 2: I, the, to, no, go, into

Phase 3: he, she, we, be, me, be, was, you, they, all, are, my, her

Phase 4: said, have, like, so, do, some, come, were, there, little, one, when, out, what

Phase 5: oh, their, people, Mr, Mrs, looked, called, asked, could

Spelling Rules				
Year	1 Spelling Rules to be taught	Guidance and Explanation	Examples	
2.	The sounds /f/, /l/, /s/, /z/ and /k/ spelt ff, ll, ss, zz and	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	off, well, miss, buzz, back	
	ck	vowel letter in short words.	Exceptions: if, pal, us, bus, yes.	
3.	-tch	The /tʃ/ (ch) sound is usually spelt as tch if it comes straight after a single vowel letter.	catch, fetch, kitchen, notch, hutch	
			Exceptions: rich, which, much, such.	
4.	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	
5.	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 hatches	
6.	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 'id' (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	hunting, hunted, hunter, buzzing, buzzed, buzzer, jumping, jumped, jumper	



	different), the ending is simply added on.	
7. Words ending -y (/i:/ or /ɪ/)		very, happy, funny, party, family
8. Adding –er and –est to	As with verbs (see above), if the adjective ends in two	grander, grandest, fresher, freshest,
adjectives where no change is	consonant letters (the same or different), the ending is	quicker, quickest
needed to the root word.	simply added on.	
9. Adding the prefix –un	The prefix un– is added to the beginning of a word	unhappy, undo, unload, unfair, unlock
	without any change to the spelling of the root word.	

Year 2

1. Common Exception Words for Year 2:

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, parents, Christmas

Year 2 Spelling Rules to be taught	Guidance and Explanation	Examples
2. The 'i' long vowel (/al/)	This is by far the most common spelling for this sound	cry, fly, dry, try, reply, July
sound is spelt –y at the end of words	at the end of words.	
3. The 'ee' sound at the end of	The plural of these words is formed by the addition of –	key, donkey, monkey, chimney, valley
words is spelt –ey.	s (donkeys, monkeys, etc.)	
4. The /n/ sound spelt kn and	The 'k' and 'g' at the beginning of these words was	knock, know, knee, gnat, gnaw
(less often) gn at the	sounded hundreds of years ago.	
beginning of words		
5. The /r/ sound spelt wr at the	This spelling probably also reflects an old	write, written, wrote, wrong, wrap
beginning of words	pronunciation.	
6. The 'or' sound is spelt a before	The /ɔ:/ sound ('or') is usually spelt as a before I and II.	all, ball, call, walk, talk,
l and ll		always
7. The 'u' (/ʌ/) sound spelt o		other, mother, brother, nothing, Monday



8.	The 'o' sound is spelt 'a' after w and qu	a is the most common spelling for the /p/ ('hot') sound after w and qu.	want, watch, wander, quantity, squash
9.	The 's' sound spelt c before e, i and y	·	race, ice, cell, city, fancy
10.	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
11.	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, repliedbut copying, crying, replying
12.	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
13.	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 short vowel sound. Exception: The letter 'x' is never doubled: mixing, mixed, boxer, sixes.	patting, patted, humming, hummed, dropping, dropped, sadder, saddest, fatter, fattest, runner, runny
14.	The 'l' (/l/ or /əl/) sound is spelt most commonly —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
15.	a) The 'l' sound (/l/ or /əl/ sound) is 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
	b) The 'l' (/l/ or /əl/) sound spelt –al at the end of words	Not many nouns end in –al, but many adjectives do There are not many of these words	metal, pedal, capital, hospital, animal



c) The 'l' (/l/ or /əl/) spelt –il at the end of words.		pencil, fossil, nostril
16. a) The 'j' sound is spelt as ge and dge at the end of words.	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 'short' vowels (/æ/, /ɛ/, /ɪ/, /ɒ/, /ʌ/ and /ʊ/ sounds). 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	badge, edge, bridge, dodge, fudge age, huge, change, charge, bulge, village gem, giant, magic, giraffe, energy jacket, jar, jog, join, adjust
b) It is sometimes spelt as g elsewhere in words before e, i and yc) it is always spelt as a j before a, o and u.	(but not always) spelt as g before e, i, and y. The /dʒ/ sound is always spelt as j before a, o and u.	
17. 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), badly merriment, happiness, plentiful, beautiful penniless, happily
18. 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).	can't, didn't, hasn't, couldn't, it's, I'll Imagine a world where people know the difference between "your" and "you're".



	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.	
19. The possessive apostrophe (singular nouns)		Megan's, Ravi's, the girl's, the child's, the man's
20. 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

Year 3

Revision of work from Years 1 and 2: Pay special attention to the rules for adding suffixes.

Common Misspelt Words for Year 3:

actual(ly), address, answer, appear, arrive, breath, breathe, build, calendar, century, circle, describe, different, difficult, disappear, early, earth, eight/eighth, famous, favourite, February, forward(s), fruit group, heart, height, history, important, island, learn, length, library, minute, often, opposite, probably, promise quarter, question, remember, sentence, special, straight, strange, strength, surprise though/although, through, weight

Year 3 Spelling Rules to be taught	Guidance and Explanation	Examples
 Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters (-ing, -er -ed -est) 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 suffix beginning with a vowel letter is added.	forget, forgetting begin, beginning, beginner prefer, preferred
	The consonant letter is not doubled if the syllable is unstressed.	gardening, gardener, limiting, limited, limitation
2. The /ʌ/ sound spelt ou	These words should be learnt as needed.	. young, touch, double, trouble, country



3. Words with the 'ay' (/eɪ/) sound spelt ei, eigh, or ey		vein, weigh, eight, neighbour, they, obey
4. <u>Prefixes</u> : Most prefixes are added to the beginning of root words without any changes in spelling		
4a) dis— and mis	Like un—, the prefixes dis— and mis— have negative meanings.	dis: disappoint, disagree, disobey mis: misbehave, mislead, misspell (mis + spell)
4b) in-	The prefix in- can mean both 'not' and 'in'/'into'.	in: inactive, incorrect
	bi) Before a root word starting with I, in–becomes il.	il: illegal, illegible
	bii) Before a root word starting with m or p, in–becomes im–	im: immature, immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect
	biii) Before a root word starting with r, in–becomes ir–.	ir: irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible
4c) re-	ro moone (again' or (back'	rounds refresh return reconnect
4d) sub-	re- means 'again' or 'back'.	re: redo, refresh, return, reappear, redecorate
	sub- means 'under'.	
4e) inter-	Inter- means 'between' or 'among'.	sub: subdivide, subheading, submarine, submerge
4f) super-	super– means 'above'.	inter: interact, intercity, international, interrelated (inter + related)
4g) anti-		



	anti- means 'against'.	super: supermarket, superman, superstar
4h) auto-	auto- means 'self' or 'own'.	anti: antiseptic, anticlockwise, antisocial
		auto: autobiography, autograph
5. 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)
Exceptions: 5a) Adding the suffix –ly if the root word ends in –y with a consonant letter before it	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.	happy - happily angry - angrily
5b) Adding the suffix –ly if the root word ends with –le	If the root word ends with —le, the —le is changed to —ly.	gentle - gently simple – simply humble – humbly noble - nobly
5c) Adding the suffix –ly if the root word ends with –ic	If the root word ends with –ic –ally is added rather than just –ly, except in the word publicly.	basic - basically frantic - frantically dramatic - dramatically
6. Words with endings sounding like /3ə/ e.g 'measure' or 'tcher' (/tʃə) e.g creature	The ending sounding like /ʒə/ is always spelt –sure.	measure, treasure, pleasure, enclosure
	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.	creature, furniture, picture, nature, adventure Alot is not a word. You don't write alittle, abunch, acantaloupe, aporkchop. So don't write alot.



7. Homophones and near-homophones	accept/except	groan/grown	medal/meddle
	affect/effect	here/hear	missed/mist
	ball/bawl	heel/heal/he'll	peace/piece
	berry/bury	knot/not	plain/plane
	brake/break	mail/male	rain/rein/reign
	fair/fare	main/mane	scene/seen
	grate/great	meat/meet	weather/whether
			whose/who's
Year 4			

Year 4 Common Misspelt Words

believe, bicycle, busy/business, caught, centre, certain, complete, consider, continue, decide, enough, exercise, experience, experiment, extreme, grammar, guard, guide, heard, imagine, increase, interest, knowledge, material, medicine, mention, natural, naughty, notice, occasion(ally), ordinary, particular, peculiar, perhaps, popular, position, possess(ion), possible, potatoes, pressure, purpose, recent, regular, reign, separate, suppose, therefore, various

Year 4 Spelling Rules to be taught	Guidance and Explanation	Examples	
1. The suffix –ation	The suffix –ation is added to verbs to form nouns. The rules already learnt still apply.	information, adoration, sensation, preparation, admiration	
2. The suffix –sion	Endings which sound like /ʒən/: If the ending sounds like /ʒən/, it is spelt as –sion.	division, invasion, confusion, decision, collision, television	
3. The suffix –ous		poisonous, dangerous, mountainous	
3a) If the suffix –ous is added to words ending in -our	-our is changed to -or before -ous is added.	humorous, glamorous, vigorous	
3b) If the suffix –ous is added to words with the 'dge' (/dʒ/) sound and the	A final 'e' of the root word must be kept if the /dʒ/ sound of 'g' is to be kept.	courageous, outrageous	



last le	tter in the root word is e		
3c) If there is an 'ee' /i:/ sound before the –ous ending,		It is usually spelt as i, but a few words have e.	serious, obvious, curious hideous, spontaneous, courteous
4.	The suffixes: -tion, -sion, -ssion and - cian	4a) –tion is the most common spelling. It is used if the root word ends in t or te.	invention, injection, action, hesitation, completion
	(N.B technically the suffixes are -ion and -ian.) Words with ending that sound like 'shion' (/ʃən/)	 4b) -ssion is used if the root word ends in ss or -mit. 4c) -sion is used if the root word ends in d or se. Exceptions: attend – attention, intend – intention. 	expression, discussion, confession, permission, admission expansion, extension, comprehension, tension
		4d) —cian is used if the root word ends in c or cs.	musician, electrician, magician, politician, mathematician
5.	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)
6.	Words with the /k/ sound spelt ch (Greek in origin)		scheme, chorus, chemist, echo, character
7.	Words with the /ʃ/ sound spelt ch (mostly French in origin)		chef, chalet, machine, brochure
8.	Words ending with the /g/ sound spelt – gue and the /k/ sound spelt – que (French in origin)		league, tongue, antique, unique



9. 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
	V F		

Year 5

Common Misspelt Year 5 words

Achieve, aggressive, ancient, appreciate, attached, awkward, bargain, bruise, conscience, conscious, convenience, criticise (critic + ise), curiosity, desperate, determined, develop, dictionary, environment, especially, excellent, forty, government, individual, language, marvellous, muscle, neighbour, occur, parliament, physical, profession, queue, recognise, recommend, restaurant, rhyme, rhythm, sacrifice, shoulder, stomach, suggest, symbol, system, thorough, twelfth, vegetable, vehicle, yacht

Year 5 Spelling Rules to be taught	Guidance and Explanation	Examples
 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.	vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious ambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious
2. Endings which sound like /ʃəl/are either spelt –cial or -tial	-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
3a) Words ending in –ant, –ance/ –	Use –ant and –ance/–ancy if there is a related	observant, observance, (observation),



ancy,	word with an 'a' (cat) (/æ/) or 'ay' (play) /eɪ/ sound in the right position; –ation endings are often a clue.	expectant (expectation), hesitant, hesitancy (hesitation), tolerant, tolerance (toleration), substance (substantial)
3b) Words ending in -ent, -ence/- ency	Use –ent and –ence/–ency after soft c (/s/ sound), soft g (/dʒ/ sound) and qu. There are many words, however, where the above guidance does not help. These words just have to be learnt	innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, assistant, assistance, obedient, obedience, independent, independence
4. Words ending in –able and –ably and -ible 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.	adore - adorable/adorably (adoration), apply - applicable/applicably (application), consider- considerable/considerably (consideration) tolerate - tolerable/tolerably (toleration)
	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.	changeable, noticeable, forcible, legible
	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.	dependable, comfortable, understandable, reasonable, enjoyable, reliable Every time someone types "to funny," I immediately picture.





	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).	possible/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.	referring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, transferring, transferred
	The r is not doubled if the –fer is no longer stressed	reference, referee, preference, transference
i before e except after c rule	The 'ee' sound (/i:/) is spelt 'ei' after a 'c'.	Words that make the 'ee' sound spelt ie: achieve, believe, field, chief, grief, shriek Words that make the 'ee' sound spelt ei because they follow c: deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling Exceptions words where the 'ee' sound is still spelt ei even without a c before it: protein, caffeine, seize (and either and neither if pronounced with an initial /i:/ sound).
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, fought rough, tough, enough cough though, although, dough



	through
	thorough, borough
	plough, bough

8. Homophones and near homophones:

- 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.

Year 6

N.B: Year 6 must revise all spelling rules where appropriate

Common Misspelt Year 6 words

accommodate, accompany, according, amateur, apparent, available, average, category, cemetery, committee, communicate, community, competition, controversy, correspond, definite, disastrous, embarrass, equip (-ped, -ment), exaggerate, existence, explanation, familiar, foreign, frequently, guarantee, harass, hindrance, identity, immediate(ly), interfere, interrupt,



leisure, lightning, mischievous, necessary, nuisance, occupy, opportunity, persuade, prejudice, privilege, programme, pronunciation relevant, secretary, signature, sincere(ly), soldier, sufficient, temperature, variety

Year 6 Spelling Rules to be taught	Guidance and Explanation	Examples
1. Words with 'silent' letters (i.e. letters	Some letters which are no longer sounded	doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight
whose presence cannot be predicted	used to be sounded hundreds of years ago:	
from the pronunciation of the word)	e.g. in knight, there was a /k/ sound before	
	the /n/ etc	

Homophones and near homophones:

- farther: further/ father: a male parent
- guessed: past tense of the verb guess / guest: visitor
- heard: past tense of the verb hear / herd: a group of animals
- led: 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 noon / mourning: grieving for someone who has died
- past: 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 before /proceed: go on
- **principal:** adjective most important (e.g. principal ballerina) noun important person (e.g. principal of a college)/ **principle:** basic truth or belief
- profit: money that is made in selling things / prophet: someone who foretells the future
- **stationary**: not moving / **stationery**: paper, envelopes etc.
- steal: take something that does not belong to you / steel: metal
- wary: cautious / weary: tired
- who's: contraction of who is or who has / whose: belonging to someone (e.g. Whose jacket is that?)

THERE are people who never paid attention to THEIR teacher in school.
THEY'RE probably wondering what this means.

