| 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 <br> Phase 3: he, she, we, be, me, be, was, you, they, all, are, my, her <br> Phase 4: said, have, like, so, do, some, come, were, there, little, one, when, out, what <br> 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 $/ \mathrm{f} / \mathrm{/} / \mathrm{I} / \mathrm{/} / \mathrm{s} /, / \mathrm{z} /$ and /k/ spelt ff, II, ss, zz and ck | The /f/, /l/, /s/, /z/ and /k/ sounds are usually spelt as $\mathrm{ff}, \mathrm{II}, \mathrm{ss}, \mathrm{zz}$ and ck if they come straight after a single vowel letter in short words. | off, well, miss, buzz, back <br> Exceptions: if, pal, us, bus, yes. |
| 3. -tch | The / $\mathrm{t} /$ / (ch) sound is usually spelt as tch if it comes straight after a single vowel letter. | catch, fetch, kitchen, notch, hutch <br> 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 $/ \mathrm{s} /$ or $/ \mathrm{z} /$, it is spelt as -s . If the ending sounds like /iz/ 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 |

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|  | different), the ending is simply added on. |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 7. Words ending -y (/i:/ or /x/) |  | very, happy, funny, party, family |
| 8. 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 |
| 9. 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 |
| 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/) sound is 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 |
| 3. The 'ee' sound at the end of words is spelt -ey. | The plural of these words is formed by the addition of s (donkeys, monkeys, etc.) | key, donkey, monkey, chimney, valley |
| 4. 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 |
| 5. The $/ r /$ sound spelt $w r$ at the beginning of words | This spelling probably also reflects an old pronunciation. | write, written, wrote, wrong, wrap |
| 6. The 'or' sound is spelt a before I and II | The /כ:/ sound ('or') is usually spelt as a before I and II. | all, ball, call, walk, talk, always |
| 7. The ' $u$ ' (/^/) sound spelt 0 |  | other, mother, brother, nothing, Monday |

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| 8. The ' $o$ ' sound is spelt ' $a$ ' after w and qu | a is the most common spelling for the / $\mathrm{D} /$ ('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, replied ...but 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 ' I ' (/I/ or /al/) 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 (/I/ or /al/ sound) is spelt -el at the end of words <br> b) The 'I' (/I/ or /al/) sound spelt -al 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. <br> Not many nouns end in -al, but many adjectives do <br> There are not many of these words | camel, tunnel, squirrel, travel, towel, tinsel <br> metal, pedal, capital, hospital, animal |

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| c) The 'I' (/l/ or /al/) 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. <br> b) It is sometimes spelt as $g$ elsewhere in words before e, $i$ and $y$ <br> c) it is always spelt as a j before $a, o$ and $u$. | The letter $j$ is never used for the $/ d_{3} /$ sound at the end of English words. At the end of a word, the $/ \mathrm{d}_{3} /$ sound is spelt -dge straight after the 'short' vowels (/æ/, / / //, /I/, /D/, /^/ and /v/ sounds). <br> After all other sounds, whether vowels or consonants, the $/ d 3 /$ sound is spelt as -ge at the end of a word. <br> In other positions in words, the $/ d_{3} /$ sound is often (but not always) spelt as $g$ before $e, i$, and $y$. <br> The $/ d_{3} /$ sound is always spelt as $j$ before $a, o$ and $u$. | badge, edge, bridge, dodge, fudge age, huge, change, charge, bulge, village gem, giant, magic, giraffe, energy jacket, jar, jog, join, adjust |
| 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. <br> Exceptions: <br> (1) argument <br> (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 <br> 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, l'll <br> Imagine a world where people know the difference between "your" and "you're". |

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|  | 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- <br> homophones It is im <br> betwe | portant to know the difference in meaning n 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, thought, through, weight |  |  |
| Year 3 Spelling Rules to be taught | Guidance and Explanation | Examples |
| 1. 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. <br> The consonant letter is not doubled if the syllable is unstressed. | forget, forgetting begin, beginning, beginner prefer, preferred <br> gardening, gardener, limiting, limited, limitation |
| 2. The / $/$ / sound spelt ou | These words should be learnt as needed. | - young, touch, double, trouble, country |

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3. Words with the 'ay' (/ei/) sound spelt ei, eigh, or ey
4. Prefixes: Most prefixes are added to the beginning of root words without any changes in spelling

4a) dis- and mis

4b) in-

4c) re-
4d) sub-
4e) inter-

4f) super-
$4 \mathrm{~g})$ anti-
vein, weigh, eight, neighbour, they, obey

Like un-, the prefixes dis- and mis- have negative meanings.

The prefix in- can mean both 'not' and 'in'/'into'.
bi) Before a root word starting with I, inbecomes il.
bii) Before a root word starting with $m$ or $p$, in- becomes im-
biii) Before a root word starting with r, inbecomes ir-
re- means 'again' or 'back'.
sub- means 'under'.

Inter- means 'between' or 'among'.
super- means 'above'.
dis: disappoint, disagree, disobey mis: misbehave, mislead, misspell (mis + spell)
in: inactive, incorrect
il: illegal, illegible
im: immature, immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect
ir: irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible
re: redo, refresh, return, reappear, redecorate
sub: subdivide, subheading, submarine, submerge
inter: interact, intercity, international, interrelated (inter + related)

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| 4h) auto- | anti- means 'against'. <br> auto- means 'self' or 'own'. | super: supermarket, superman, superstar anti: antiseptic, anticlockwise, antisocial auto: autobiography, autograph |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 5. The suffix -ly <br> Exceptions: | 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) |
| 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 <br> 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' (/tJə) e.g creature | The ending sounding like / 3 ว/ is always spelt -sure. | measure, treasure, pleasure, enclosure |
|  | The ending sounding like / t $\mathrm{a} /$ is often spelt ture, but check that the word is not a root | creature, furniture, picture, nature, adventure |
|  | word ending in ( t )ch with an er ending - e.g. teacher, catcher, richer, stretcher. |  |

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| last letter in the root word is e <br> 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 <br> (N.B technically the suffixes are -ion and -ian.) <br> Words with ending that sound like 'shion' (/Jon/) | 4a) -tion is the most common spelling. It is used if the root word ends in $t$ or te. <br> 4b) -ssion is used if the root word ends in ss or -mit. <br> 4c) -sion is used if the root word ends in d or se. Exceptions: attend - attention, intend intention. <br> 4d) -cian is used if the root word ends in cor cs. | invention, injection, action, hesitation, completion <br> expression, discussion, confession, permission, admission <br> expansion, extension, comprehension, tension <br> 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 /J/ sound spelt ch (mostly French in origin) |  | chef, chalet, machine, brochure |
| 8. Words ending with the $/ \mathrm{g} /$ sound spelt - gue and the $/ \mathrm{k} /$ sound spelt que (French in origin) |  | league, tongue, antique, unique |

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ancy,

3b) Words ending in -ent, -ence/ency
4. Words ending in -able and -ably and -ible and -ibly
word with an 'a' (cat) (/æ/) or 'ay' (play) /ei/ sound in the right position; -ation endings are often a clue.

Use -ent and -ence/-ency after soft c (/s/ sound), soft g (/d3/ sound) and qu.
There are many words, however, where the above guidance does not help. These words just have to be learnt
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.
expectant (expectation), hesitant, hesitancy (hesitation), tolerant, tolerance (toleration), substance (substantial)
innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, assistant, assistance, obedient, obedience, independent, independence
adore - adorable/adorably (adoration), apply - applicable/applicably (application), consider- considerable/considerably (consideration) tolerate - tolerable/tolerably (toleration)
changeable, noticeable, forcible, legible
dependable, comfortable, understandable, reasonable, enjoyable, reliable

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|  | 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 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 5. 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. <br> The $r$ is not doubled if the -fer is no longer stressed | referring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, transferring, transferred reference, referee, preference, transference |
| 6. 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 <br> Words that make the 'ee' sound spelt ei because they follow c : deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling <br> 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). |
| 7. 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 <br> rough, tough, enough cough <br> though, although, dough |

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| 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 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/ etc | doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight |
| Homophones and near homophones: <br> - farther: further/ father: a male parent <br> - guessed: past tense of the verb guess / <br> - heard: past tense of the verb hear / her <br> - led: past tense of the verb lead / lead: pre <br> - morning: before noon / mourning: griev <br> - past: noun or adjective referring to a pr /passed: past tense of the verb 'pass' (e <br> - precede: go in front of or before/proce <br> - principal: adjective - most important (e truth or belief <br> - profit: money that is made in selling thi <br> - stationary: not moving / stationery: pap <br> - steal: take something that does not belo <br> - wary: cautious / weary: tired <br> - who's: contraction of who is or who has | guest: visitor <br> d: a group of animals resent tense of that verb, or else the metal ing for someone who has died vious time (e.g. In the past) or preposition or .g. I passed him in the road) <br> ed: go on <br> g. principal ballerina) noun - important perso <br> gss / prophet: someone who foretells the futur er, envelopes etc. <br> ng to you / steel: metal <br> / whose: belonging to someone (e.g. Whose | is very heavy (as heavy as lead) <br> erb showing place (e.g. he walked past me) <br> .g. principal of a college)/ principle: basic |

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

