



SpelloDrome Word Lists and  
the 2014 National Curriculum  
in England  
Key Stages 1, 2 and 3

Supported by independent  
evidence-based research and practice.



2014 National  
Curriculum ready



Powerful reporting  
features



Student  
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- The Spellodrome courses have been developed in accordance with the 2014 National Curriculum's statutory requirements for spelling.
- The Reception programme includes words containing grapheme-phoneme correspondences (GPCs) and some sight words.
- The year 1 and 2 programmes continue to build on phonic knowledge while introducing the role of morphology and etymology.
- The year 3 and 4 programmes consolidates digraphs, morphemic knowledge, vocabulary development, difficult spellings and words which are frequently misspelt.
- In years 5 and 6 the students study some of the more difficult spelling rules, continue to expand their morphemic knowledge and use etymological knowledge to develop an understanding of why some words have such unusual spellings.
- The following outline maps the Spellodrome courses to the National Curriculum in England.

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## Reception

| Spelling goals                  | Example Words                     | Program Lists |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| CVC words                       | sat, jet, fit, dot, cut, get, him | Lists 1 – 32  |
| Consonant digraphs              | shop, chip                        | Lists 1 – 31  |
| Vowel digraphs                  | pie                               | List 30       |
| Words with adjacent consonants. | from, went, drum, help            | Lists 14 – 32 |
| Common exception words.         | come, girl, and, the, was         | Lists 1 – 32  |

**The EYFS Handbook states:**

Writing: children use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds.

They also write some irregular common words. They write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible.

## Year 1

| Statutory Requirements  | Rules and Guidance   | Example Words   | Program Lists    |
|---|--|---|------------------|
| 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 <b>ff</b> , <b>ll</b> , <b>ss</b> , <b>zz</b> and <b>ck</b> if they come straight after a single vowel letter in short words. <b>Exceptions:</b> if, pal, us, bus, yes.   | off, well, miss, buzz, back   | List 1           |
| The sound spelt n before k /ŋ/  |  | bank, think, honk, sunk   | List 2           |
| 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                                   | List 3           |
| -tch  | The /tʃ/ sound is usually spelt as <b>tch</b> if it comes straight after a single vowel letter. <b>Exceptions:</b> rich, which, much, such.  | catch, fetch, kitchen, notch, hutch                                       | List 4           |
| The /v/ sound at the end of words   | English words hardly ever end with the letter <b>v</b> , so if a word ends with a /v/ sound, the letter <b>e</b> usually needs to be added after the 'v'.  | have, live, give  | List 7           |
| 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 <b>-s</b> . If the ending sounds like /ɪz/ and forms an extra syllable or 'beat' in the word, it is spelt as <b>-es</b> .   | cats, dogs, spends, rocks, thanks, catches                                | List 5<br>List 6 |
| Adding the endings -ing, -ed and -er to verbs where no change is needed to the root word. | <b>-ing</b> and <b>-er</b> always add an extra syllable to the word and <b>-ed</b> sometimes does.<br>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 <b>-ed</b> .<br>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 | List 7           |

## Year 1

| Statutory Requirements  | Rules and Guidance  | Example Words   | Program Lists |
|---|---|---|---------------|
| 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         | List 8        |
| 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    | List 9        |
| ay, oy  | <b>ay</b> and <b>oy</b> 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                | List 10       |
| a-e   |   | made, came, same, take, safe                                    | List 11       |
| e-e   |   | these, theme, complete  | List 12       |
| i-e   |   | made, came, same, take, safe                                    | List 11       |
| o-e   |   | home, those, woke, hope, hole                                   | List 12       |
| u-e   | Both the /u:/ and /ju:/ ('oo' and 'yoo') sounds can be spelt as <b>u-e</b> .  | June, rule, rude, use, tube, tune                               | List 12       |
| ar  |   | car, start, park, arm, garden                                   | List 13       |
| ee  |   | see, tree, green, meet, week                                    | List 14       |
| ea (/i:/)   |   | sea, dream, meat, each, read (present tense)                    | List 15       |
| ea (/ɛ/)  |   | head, bread, meant, instead, read (past tense)                  | List 16       |
| er (/ɜ:/)   |   | (stressed sound): her, term, verb, person                       | List 17       |
| er (/ə/)  |   | (unstressed schwa sound): better, under, summer, winter, sister | List 17       |
| ir  |   | girl, bird, shirt, first, third                                 | List 18       |
| ur  |   | turn, hurt, church, burst, Thursday                             | List 19       |
| oo (/u:/)   | Very few words end with the letters <b>oo</b> , although the few that do are often words that primary children in year 1 will encounter, for example, zoo | food, pool, moon, zoo, soon                                     | List 20       |

## Year 1

| Statutory Requirements            | Rules and Guidance  | Example Words  | Program Lists                            |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| oo (/ʊ/)                          |   | book, took, foot, wood, good   | List 21                                  |
| oa                                | The digraph <b>oa</b> is very rare at the end of an English word.   | boat, coat, road, coach, goal  | List 22                                  |
| oe                                |   | toe, goes  | List 23                                  |
| ou                                | The only common English word ending in <b>ou</b> is you.  | out, about, mouth, around, sound   | List 24                                  |
| ow (/aʊ/)<br>ow(/əʊ/)<br>ue<br>ew | Both the /u:/ and /ju:/ ('oo' and 'yoo') sounds can be spelt as <b>u-e</b> , <b>ue</b> and <b>ew</b> . If words end in the /oo/ sound, <b>ue</b> and <b>ew</b> are more common spellings than <b>oo</b> . | now, how, brown, down, town<br>own, blow, snow, grow, show<br>blue, clue, true, rescue, Tuesday<br>new, few, grew, flew, drew, threw | List 25<br>List 26<br>List 24<br>List 27 |
| ie (/aɪ/)                         |   | lie, tie, pie, cried, tried, dried   | List 28                                  |
| ie (/i:/)                         |   | chief, field, thief  | List 28                                  |
| igh                               |   | high, night, light, bright, right  | List 29                                  |
| or                                |   | for, short, born, horse, morning   | List 30                                  |
| ore                               |   | more, score, before, wore, shore   | List 30                                  |
| ow                                |   | saw, draw, yawn, crawl   | List 31                                  |
| au                                |   | author, August, dinosaur, astronaut  | List 32                                  |
| air                               |   | air, fair, pair, hair, chair   | List 33                                  |
| ear                               |   | dear, hear, beard, near, year  | List 34                                  |
| ear (/ɛə/)                        |   | bear, pear, wear   | List 34                                  |
| are (/ɛə/)                        |   | bare, dare, care, share, scored  | List 35                                  |
| Words ending -y (/i:/ or /ɪ/)     |   | very, happy, funny, party, family  | List 36                                  |
| New consonant spellings ph and wh | The /f/ sound is not usually spelt as <b>ph</b> in short everyday words (e.g. fat, fill, fun).  | dolphin, alphabet, phonics, elephant when, where, which, wheel, while  | List 37                                  |
| Using k for the /k/ sound         | The /k/ sound is spelt as <b>k</b> rather than as <b>c</b> before <b>e</b> , <b>i</b> and <b>y</b> .  | sketch, kit, skin, frisky  | List 38                                  |
| Adding the prefix -un             | The prefix <b>un-</b> is added to the beginning of a word without any change to the spelling of the root word.  | unhappy, undo, unload, unfair, unlock  | List 39                                  |



## Year 1

| Statutory Requirements | Rules and Guidance  | Example Words  | Program Lists |
|------------------------|---|--|---------------|
| 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  | List 40       |
| 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 – and/or others, according to the programme used | Lists – 1-40  |

## Year 2

| Statutory Requirements   | Rules and Guidance (non-statutory)   | Example Words   | Program Lists                      |
|--|--|---|------------------------------------|
| 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.   |   | List 1<br>List 2                   |
| 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 sound at the end of English words.<br>At the end of a word, the sound is spelt <b>-dge</b> straight after the /æ/, /ɛ/, /ɪ/, /ɒ/, /ʌ/ and /ʊ/ sounds (sometimes called 'short' vowels).<br>After all other sounds, whether vowels or consonants, the sound is spelt as <b>-ge</b> at the end of a word.<br>In other positions<br>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,<br>fudge<br><br>age, huge, change, charge,<br>bulge, village<br><br>gem, giant, magic, giraffe,<br>energy jacket, jar, jog, join,<br>adjust | List 3<br><br>List 4<br><br>List 5 |
| The /s/ sound spelt c before e, i and y.   |  | race, ice, cell, city, fancy  | List 6                             |
| 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   | List 7                             |
| The /r/ sound spelt wr at the beginning of words.  | This spelling probably also reflects an old pronunciation.   | write, written, wrote, wrong, wrap  | List 8                             |
| The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt -le at the end of words  | The <b>-le</b> spelling is the most common spelling for this sound at the end of words.  | table, apple, bottle, little, middle  | List 9                             |
| The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt -el at the end of words  | The <b>-el</b> spelling is much less common than <b>-le</b> .<br>The <b>-el</b> spelling is used after <b>m, n, r, s, v, w</b> and more often than not after <b>s</b> .  | camel, tunnel, squirrel, travel,<br>towel, tinsel   | List 10                            |
| The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt -al at the end of words  | Not many nouns end in <b>-al</b> , but many adjectives do.   | metal, pedal, capital, hospital,<br>animal  | List 11                            |

## Year 2

| Statutory Requirements   | Rules and Guidance (non-statutory)   | Example Words  | Program Lists      |
|--|--|--|--------------------|
| Words ending -il   | There are not many of these words.   | pencil, fossil, nostril  | List 12            |
| 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  | List 13            |
| Adding -es to nouns and verbs ending in -y   | The y is changed to i before <b>-es</b> is added.  | flies, tries, replies, copies, babies, carries   | List 15            |
| 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 <b>-ed, -er</b> and <b>-est</b> are added, but not before <b>-ing</b> as this would result in ii. The only ordinary words with ii are skiing and taxiing.       | copied, copier, happier, happiest, cried, replied<br>...but copying, crying, replying                | List 16<br>List 17 |
| Adding the endings -ing, -ed, -er, -est and -y to words ending in -e with a consonant before it                              | The <b>-e</b> at the end of the root word is dropped before <b>-ing, -ed, -er, -est, -y</b> or any other suffix beginning with a vowel letter is added. <b>Exception:</b> being.             | hiking, hiked, hiker, nicer, nicest, shiny   | List 18            |
| 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 sound (i.e. to keep the vowel 'short').<br><b>Exception:</b> The letter 'x' is never doubled: mixing, mixed, boxer, sixes. | patting, patted, humming, hummed, dropping, dropped, sadder, saddest, fatter, fattest, runner, runny | List 19            |
| The ɔ sound spelt a before l and ll  | The sound ('or') is usually spelt as <b>a</b> before <b>l</b> and <b>ll</b> . / :/   | all, ball, call, walk, talk, always  | List 20            |
| The /ʌ/ sound spelt o  |  | other, mother, brother, nothing, Monday  | List 21            |
| The /i:/ sound spelt -ey   | The plural of these words is formed by the addition of <b>-s</b> (donkeys, monkeys, etc.).   | key, donkey, monkey, chimney, valley   | List 22            |
| The /ɒ/ sound spelt a after w and qu   | <b>a</b> is the most common spelling for the /ɒ/ ('hot') sound after <b>w</b> and <b>qu</b> .  | want, watch, wander, quantity, squash  | List 23            |
| The /ɜ:/ sound spelt or after w  | There are not many of these words.   | word, work, worm, world, worth   | List 24            |

## Year 2

| Statutory Requirements                         | Rules and Guidance (non-statutory)  | Example Words   | Program Lists  |
|--|---|---|--|
| The /ɔ:/ sound spelt ar after w                | There are not many of these words.  | war, warm, towards  | List 24  |
| The /z/ sound spelt s                          |   | television, treasure, usual   | List 25  |
| The suffixes -ment, -ness, -ful, -less and -ly | <p>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.</p> <p><b>Exceptions:</b><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.</p> | <p>enjoyment, sadness, careful, playful, hopeless, plainness (plain + ness), badly</p> <p>merriment, happiness, plentiful, penniless, happily</p> | <p>List 26<br/>           List 27<br/>           List 28<br/>           List 29<br/>           List 30</p> |
| Contractions                                   | <p>In contractions, the apostrophe shows where a letter or letters would be if the words were written in full (e.g. can't – cannot).</p> <p>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.</p>   | <p>can't, didn't, hasn't, couldn't, it's, I'll</p>  |  |
| 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   | List 31  |
| 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                    | List 32  |
| Common exception words                         | <p>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 <b>a</b> in these words is pronounced /æ/, as in cat.</p> <p>Great, break and steak are the only common words where the /eɪ/sound is spelt <b>ea</b>.</p>                               |   | <p>List 33<br/>           List 34<br/>           Lists 1- 36</p>   |

## Year 3 and 4

| Statutory Requirements   | Rules and Guidance (non-statutory)  | Example Words   | Program Lists  |
|--|---|---|--|
| Revision of work from Years 1 and 2  |   |   | Year 3 List 1<br>Year 3 List 2<br>Year 4 List 1<br>Year 4 List 2 |
| 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, preferred<br><br>gardening, gardener, limiting, limited, limitation | Year 3 List 3<br><br>Year 3 List 4                               |
| The /ɪ/ sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words                         | These words should be learnt as needed.   | myth, gym, Egypt, pyramid, mystery  | Year 3 List 6  |
| The sound spelt /ʌ/ ou   | These words should be learnt as needed.   | young, touch, double, trouble, country  | Year 3 List 12   |
| More prefixes  | Most prefixes are added to the beginning of root words without any changes in spelling, but see <b>in-</b> below.   | <b>dis-</b> : disappoint, disagree, disobey   | Year 3 List 32   |
|  | Like <b>un-</b> , the prefixes <b>dis-</b> and <b>mis-</b> have negative meanings.  | <b>mis-</b> : misbehave, mislead, misspell (mis + spell)  | Year 3 List 29   |
|  | The prefix <b>in-</b> can mean both 'not' and 'in'/'into'. In the words given here it means 'not'.  | <b>in-</b> : inactive, incorrect  | Year 3 List 15   |
|  | Before a root word starting with <b>l</b> , <b>in-</b> becomes <b>il</b> .  | illegal, illegible  | Year 4 List 3  |
|  | Before a root word starting with <b>m</b> or <b>p</b> , <b>in-</b> becomes <b>im-</b> .   | immature, immortal, impossible, impatient   | Year 3 List 11   |
|  | Before a root word starting with <b>r</b> , <b>in-</b> becomes <b>ir-</b> .   | irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible  | Year 4 List 6  |
|  | <b>re-</b> means 'again' or 'back'.   | <b>re-</b> : redo, refresh, return, reappear, redecorate  | Year 4 List 12   |
| <b>sub-</b> means 'under'.   | <b>sub-</b> : subdivide, subheading, submarine, submerge  | Year 4 List 15  |  |

## Year 3 and 4

| Statutory Requirements | Rules and Guidance (non-statutory)  | Example Words   | Program Lists  |
|------------------------|---|---|--|
|                        | <p><b>inter-</b> means 'between' or 'among'.</p> <p><b>super-</b> means 'above'.</p> <p><b>anti-</b> means 'against'.</p> <p><b>auto-</b> means 'self' or 'own'</p>   | <p><b>inter-</b>: interact, intercity, international, interrelated (inter + related)</p> <p><b>super-</b>: supermarket, superman, superstar</p> <p><b>anti-</b>: antiseptic, anti-clockwise, antisocial</p> <p><b>auto-</b>: autobiography, autograph</p> | <p>Year 4 List 21</p> <p>Year 3 List 20</p> <p>Year 4 List 24</p> <p>Year 4 List 30</p>                      |
| The suffix -ation      | The suffix <b>-ation</b> is added to verbs to form nouns. The rules already learnt still apply.   | information, adoration, sensation, preparation, admiration  | Year 3 List 10   |
| The suffix -ly         | <p>The suffix <b>-ly</b> is added to an adjective to form an adverb. The rules already learnt still apply. The suffix <b>-ly</b> starts with a consonant letter, so it is added straight on to most root words.</p> <p><b>Exceptions:</b></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>(2) If the root word ends with <b>-le</b>, the <b>-le</b> is changed to <b>-ly</b>.</p> <p>(3) If the root word ends with <b>-ic</b>, <b>-ally</b> is added rather than just <b>-ly</b>, except in the word publicly.</p> <p>(4) The words truly, duly, wholly.</p> | <p>sadly, completely, usually (usual + ly), finally (final + ly), comically (comical + ly) happily, angrily</p> <p>gently, simply, humbly, nobly</p> <p>basically, frantically, dramatically</p>  | <p>Year 3 List 19</p> <p>Year 4 List 4</p> <p>Year 4 List 13</p> <p>Year 3 List 28</p> <p>Year 3 List 33</p> |

## Year 3 and 4

| Statutory Requirements  | Rules and Guidance (non-statutory)  | Example Words  | Program Lists                               |
|---|---|--|---|
| Words with endings sounding like /ʒə/ or /t ə/  | <p>The ending sounding like /ʒə/ is always spelt <b>-sure</b>.</p> <p>The ending sounding like /tə/ is often spelt <b>-ture</b>, but check that the word is not a root word ending in <b>(t)ch</b> with an <b>er</b> ending – e.g. teacher, catcher, richer, stretcher.</p> | <p>measure, treasure, pleasure, enclosure</p> <p>creature, furniture, picture, nature, adventure</p> | <p>Year 3 List 14</p> <p>Year 3 List 23</p> |
| Endings which sound like /ʒən/  | If the ending sounds like /ʒən/, it is spelt as <b>-sion</b> .  | division, invasion, confusion, decision, collision, television                                       | Year 4 List 19                              |
| The suffix <b>-ous</b>  | Sometimes the root word is obvious and the usual rules apply for adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters.  | poisonous, dangerous, mountainous, famous, various   | Year 4 List 31                              |
|   | Sometimes there is no obvious root word.  | tremendous, enormous, jealous  | Year 4 List 31                              |
|   | <b>-our</b> is changed to <b>-or</b> before <b>-ous</b> is added.   | humorous, glamorous, vigorous  |   |
|   | A final 'e' of the root word must be kept if the /dʒ/ sound of 'g' is to be kept.   | courageous, outrageous   | Year 4 List 23                              |
|   | If there is an /i:/ sound before the <b>-ous</b> ending, it is usually spelt as <b>i</b> , but a few words have <b>e</b> .  | serious, obvious, curious<br>hideous, spontaneous, courteous   | Year 4 List 5                               |
| Endings which sound like spelt <b>-tion</b> , <b>-sion</b> , <b>-ssion</b> , <b>-cian</b> /ʃən/ | Strictly speaking, the suffixes are <b>-ion</b> and <b>-ian</b> . Clues about whether to put <b>t</b> , <b>s</b> , <b>ss</b> or <b>c</b> before these suffixes often come from the last letter or letters of the root word.   |  |   |
|   | <b>-tion</b> is the most common spelling. It is used if the root word ends in <b>t</b> or <b>te</b> .   | invention, injection, action, hesitation, completion   | Year 4 List 14                              |
|   | <b>-ssion</b> is used if the root word ends in <b>ss</b> or <b>-mit</b> .   | expression, discussion, confession, permission, admission  | Year 4 List 10                              |
|   | <b>-sion</b> is used if the root word ends in <b>d</b> or <b>se</b> .   | expansion, extension, comprehension, tension   | Year 4 List 19                              |
|   | <b>Exceptions:</b> attend – attention, intend – intention.  |  |   |
|   | <b>-cian</b> is used if the root word ends in <b>c</b> or <b>cs</b> .   | musician, electrician, magician, politician, mathematician   | Year 4 List 28                              |

## Year 3 and 4

| Statutory Requirements   | Rules and Guidance (non-statutory)   | Example Words   | Program Lists  |
|--|--|---|--|
| Words with the /k/ sound spelt ch (Greek in origin)  |  | scheme, chorus, chemist, echo, character  | Year 4 List 11   |
| Words with the sound spelt ch (mostly French in origin) /ʃ/                                |  | chef, chalet, machine, brochure   | Year 3 List 5  |
| Words ending with the /g/ sound spelt -gue and the /k/ sound spelt -que (French in origin) |  | league, tongue, antique, unique   | Year 4 List 20   |
| Words with the /s/ sound spelt sc (Latin in origin)  | In the Latin words from which these words come, the Romans probably pronounced the <b>c</b> and the <b>k</b> as two sounds rather than one - /s/ /k/.  | science, scene, discipline, fascinate, crescent   | Year 4 List 7  |
| Words with the sound spelt ei, eigh, or ey /eɪ/  |  | vein, weigh, eight, neighbour, they, obey   | Year 3 List 13<br>Year 3 List 22<br>Year 3 List 30   |
| Possessive apostrophe with plural words  | The apostrophe is placed after the plural form of the word; <b>-s</b> is not added if the plural already ends in <b>-s</b> , but is added if the plural does not end in <b>-s</b> (i.e. is an irregular plural - e.g. children's). | girls', boys', babies', children's, men's, mice's<br><b>(Note:</b> singular proper nouns ending in an s use the 's suffix e.g. Cyprus's population) |  |
| Homophones and near-homophones   |  | accept, except, affect, effect  | Year 3 List 21   |
| Difficult words  |  | breath, surprise  | Year 3 List 8<br>Year 3 List 17<br>Year 3 List 26<br>Year 3 List 35<br>Year 4 List 8<br>Year 4 List 17<br>Year 4 List 26<br>Year 4 List 35 |

## Year 5 and 6

| Statutory Requirements                                  | Rules and Guidance (non-statutory)   | Example Words  | Program Lists  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Revise work done in previous years                      |  |  | Year 5 List 1<br>Year 5 List 2<br>Year 6 List 1<br>Year 6 List 2         |
| Endings which sound like /ʃəs/ spelt -cious or -tious / | Not many common words end like this.<br>If the root word ends in <b>-ce</b> , the /ʃ/ sound is usually spelt as <b>c</b> – e.g. vice – vicious, grace – gracious, space – spacious, malice – malicious.<br><b>Exception:</b> anxious.  | vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious<br><br>ambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious  | Year 5 List 3<br><br>Year 5 List 5                                       |
| Endings which sound like /ʃəl/                          | <b>-cial</b> is common after a vowel letter and <b>-tial</b> after a consonant letter, but there are some exceptions.<br><b>Exceptions:</b> initial, financial, commercial, provincial (the spelling of the last three is clearly related to finance, commerce and province).  | official, special, artificial, partial, confidential, essential  | Year 5 List 11<br>Year 5 List 14   |
| Words ending in -ant, -ance/-ancy, -ent, -ence/-ency    | Use <b>-ant</b> and <b>-ance/-ancy</b> if there is a related word with a /æ/ or /eɪ/ sound in the right position; <b>-ation</b> endings are often a clue.<br><br>Use <b>-ent</b> and <b>-ence/-ency</b> after soft <b>c</b> (/s/ sound), soft <b>g</b> (/dʒ/sound) and <b>qu</b> , or if there is a related word with a clear /ɛ/ sound in the right position.<br>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)<br><br>innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, confident, confidence (confidential)<br><br>assistant, assistance, obedient, obedience, independent, independence | Year 5 List 20<br>Year 5 List 22<br><br>Year 5 List 28<br>Year 5 List 29 |

## Year 5 and 6

| Statutory Requirements  | Rules and Guidance (non-statutory)  | Example Words   | Program Lists   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>Words ending in -able and -ible</p> <p>Words ending in -ably and -ibly</p> | <p>The <b>-able/-ably</b> endings are far more common than the <b>-ible/-ibly</b> endings. As with <b>-ant</b> and <b>-ance/-ancy</b>, the <b>-able</b> ending is used if there is a related word ending in <b>-ation</b>.</p> <p>If the <b>-able</b> ending is added to a word ending in <b>-ce</b> or <b>-ge</b>, the <b>e</b> after the <b>c</b> or <b>g</b> must be kept as those letters would otherwise have their 'hard' sounds (as in cap and gap) before the <b>a</b> of the <b>-able</b> ending.</p> <p>The <b>-able</b> 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 <b>-ation</b>. The first five examples opposite are obvious; in <b>reliable</b>, the complete word <b>rely</b> is heard, but the <b>y</b> changes to <b>i</b> in accordance with the rule.</p> <p>The <b>-ible</b> 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. <b>sensible</b>).</p> | <p>adorable/adorably (adoration), applicable/applicably (application), considerable/considerably (consideration), tolerable/tolerably (toleration)</p> <p>changeable, noticeable, forcible, legible</p> <p>dependable, comfortable, understandable, reasonable, enjoyable, reliable</p> <p>possible/possibly, horrible/horribly, terrible/terribly, visible/visibly, incredible/incredibly, sensible/sensibly</p> | <p>Year 6 List 3<br/>Year 5 List 31</p> <p>Year 6 List 5</p> <p>Year 6 List 3</p> <p>Year 5 List 32<br/>Year 6 List 4</p> |
| <p>Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in -fer</p>   | <p>The <b>r</b> is doubled if the <b>-fer</b> is still stressed when the ending is added.</p> <p>The <b>r</b> is not doubled if the <b>-fer</b> is no longer stressed.</p>  | <p>referring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, transferring, transferred</p> <p>reference, referee, preference, transference</p>  | <p>Year 6 List 7</p>  |
| <p>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>   | <p>co-ordinate, re-enter, co-operate, co-own</p>  |   |

## Year 5 and 6

| Statutory Requirements   | Rules and Guidance (non-statutory)   | Example Words   | Program Lists  |
|--|--|---|--|
| 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:/.<br>Exceptions: protein, caffeine, seize (and either and neither if pronounced with an initial /i:/ sound).                                      | deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling   | Year 5 List 4  |
| Words containing the letter-string ough  | <b>ough</b> 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 | Year 5 List 10   |
| 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 <b>gh</b> used to represent the sound that 'ch' now represents in the Scottish word loch. | doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight  | Year 5 List 13<br>Year 5 List 30   |
| Homophones and other words that are often confused   | In the pairs of words opposite, nouns end <b>-ce</b> and verbs end <b>-se</b> . Advice and advise provide a useful clue as the word advise (verb) is pronounced with a /z/ sound – which could not be spelt c.                             | advice/advise<br>device/devise<br>licence/<br>license<br>practice/<br>practise<br>prophecy/<br>prophesy   | Year 5 List 12<br>Year 6 List 12<br>Year 6 List 30   |
| Difficult words  |  | accommodate<br>existence<br>recommend<br>restaurant<br>signature  | Year 5 List 8<br>Year 5 List 17<br>Year 5 List 23<br>Year 5 List 26<br>Year 5 List 35<br>Year 6 List 8<br>Year 6 List 26<br>Year 6 List 35 |





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