

National Curriculum Spelling Overview

Spelling Overview Year 1

Revision of Reception work :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 and the sounds which they represent; vowel digraphs which have been taught and the sounds which they represent; the process of segmenting words into sounds before choosing graphemes to represent the sounds; words with adjacent consonants rules and guidelines which have been taught.

The sounds /f/, /l/, /s/, /z/ and /k/ spelt ff, ll, ss, zz and ck off, well, miss, buzz, back
The sound spelt n before k bank, think, honk, sunk
-tch catch, fetch, kitchen, notch, hutch
The v sound at the end of words have, live, give
Adding s and es to words (plural of nouns and the third person singular of verbs) cats, dogs, spends, rocks, thanks, catches
Adding the endings –ing, –ed and –er to verbs where no change is needed to the root word hunting, hunted, hunter, buzzing, buzzed, buzzer, jumping, jumped, jumper
Adding –er and –est to adjectives where no change is needed to the root word grander, grandest, fresher, freshest, quicker, quickest
Vowel digraphs and trigraphs ai oi ain, wait, train, paid, afraid oil, join, coin, point, soil ay oy day, play, say, way, stay boy, toy, enjoy, annoy a–e/e–e /i–e /o–e/ u–e made, came, same, take, safe/ these, theme, complete/ five, ride, like, time, side /home, those, woke, hope, hole /June, rule, rude, use, tube, tune ar/ee car, start, park, arm, garden/see, tree, green, meet, week ea/ea sea, dream, meat, each, read (present tense) /head, bread, meant, instead, read (past tense) er/er (stressed sound): her, term, verb, person/ (unstressed <i>schwa</i> sound): better, under, summer, winter, sister ir/ur girl, bird, shirt, first, third /turn, hurt, church, burst, Thursday oo/oo food, pool, moon, zoo, soon/ book, took, foot, wood, good oa/oe/ou boat, coat, road, coach, goal/ toe, goes/ out, about, mouth, around, sound ow/ow/ue/ew now, how, brown, down, town /own, blow, snow, grow, show/ blue, clue, true, rescue, Tuesday/ new, few, grew, flew, drew, threw ie/ie lie, tie, pie, cried, tried, dried /chief, field, thief / igh high, night, light, bright, right or/ore for, short, born, horse, morning /more, score, before, wore, shore aw/au saw, draw, yawn, crawl/ author, August, dinosaur, astronaut

Spelling Overview Year 1 (continued)

air/ear/ea/ are air, fair, pair, hair, chair /dear, hear, beard, near, year /bear, pear, wear /bare, dare, care, share, scared

Words ending – y very, happy, funny, party, family **New consonant spellings ph and wh** dolphin, alphabet, phonics, elephant when, where, which, wheel, while

Using k for the k sound sketch, kit, skin, frisky **Adding the prefix –un** unhappy, undo, unload, unfair, unlock

Compound words football, playground, farmyard, bedroom, blackberry

Common exception words the, a, do, to, today, of, said, says, are, were, was, is, his, has, I, you, your, they, be, he, me, she, we, no, go, so, by, my, here, there, where, love, come, some, one, once, ask, friend, school, put, push, pull, full, house, our

Spelling Overview Year 2

The sound spelt as ge and dge at the end of words, and sometimes spelt as g elsewhere in words before e, i and y badge, edge, bridge, dodge, fudge /age, huge, change, charge, bulge, village /gem, giant, magic, giraffe, energy jacket, 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 knock, know, knee, gnat, gnaw
The // sound spelt wr at the beginning of words write, written, wrote, wrong, wrap
The // or /l/ sound spelt –le at the end of words able, apple, bottle, little, middle
The // or /l/ sound spelt –el at the end of words camel, tunnel, squirrel, travel, towel, tinsel
The // or /l/ sound spelt –al at the end of words metal, pedal, capital, hospital, animal
Words ending –il pencil, fossil, nostril
The // sound spelt –y at the end of words cry, fly, dry, try, reply, July
Adding –es to nouns and verbs ending in –y flies, tries, replies, copies, babies, carries
Adding –ed, –ing, –er and –est to a root word ending in –y with a consonant before it. 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 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 patting, patted, humming, hummed, dropping, dropped, sadder, saddest, fatter, fattest, runner, runny
The sound spelt a before l and ll all, ball, call, walk, talk, always
The sound spelt o other, mother, brother, nothing, Monday
The sound spelt –ey key, donkey, monkey, chimney, valley
The sound spelt a after w and qu want, watch, wander, quantity, squash
The sound spelt or after w word, work, worm, world, worth
The sound spelt ar after w war, warm, towards
The sound spelt s television, treasure, usual
The suffixes –ment, –ness, –ful , – less and ‘-ly’ enjoyment, sadness, careful, playful, hopeless, plainness (plain + ness), badly /merriment, happiness, plentiful, penniless, happily
Contractions can't, didn't, hasn't, couldn't, it's, I'll

Spelling Overview Year 2 (continued)

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

Homophones and near-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 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 Overview Year 3 and 4

Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable forgetting, forgotten, beginning, beginner, prefer, preferred
The // sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words – myth /gym/pyramid/mystery
The // sound spelt ou - young, touch, double, trouble, country
More prefixes dis–, mis–: disappoint, disagree, disobey misbehave, mislead, misspell (mis + spell) in–: inactive, incorrect il illegal, illegible - im -immature, immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible re–: redo, refresh, return, reappear, redecorate sub–: subdivide, subheading, submarine, submerge inter–: interact, intercity, international, interrelated (inter + related) super–: supermarket, superman, superstar anti–: antiseptic, anti-clockwise, antisocial auto–: autobiography, autograph
The suffix –ation - information, adoration, sensation, preparation, admiration
The suffix –ly - sadly, completely, usually (usual + ly), finally (final + ly), comically (comical + ly) happily, angrily gently, simply, humbly, nobly basically, frantically, dramatically
Words with endings sounding like use – treasure /measure or creature/ furniture
Endings which sound like sion- confusion/division/invasion
The suffix –ous poisonous, dangerous, mountainous, famous, various tremendous, enormous, jealous /humorous, glamorous, vigorous courageous, outrageous /serious, obvious, curious hideous, spontaneous, courteous
Endings which sound like //, spelt –tion, –sion, –ssion, –cian invention, injection, action, hesitation, completion /expression, discussion, confession, permission, admission expansion, extension, comprehension, tension /musician, electrician, magician, politician, mathematician
Words with the /k/ sound spelt ch – character/scheme/ chorus
Words with the /sh / sound spelt ch – chalet/machine/brochure
Words ending with the /g/ sound spelt –gue and the /k/ sound spelt – que (French in origin) league, tongue, antique, unique
spelt sc (Latin in origin) science, scene, discipline, fascinate, crescent
Words spelt ei, eigh, or ey vein, weigh, eight, neighbour, they, obey
Possessive apostrophe with plural words girls', boys', babies', children's, men's, mice's
Homophones or 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

Spelling Overview Year 3 and 4 (continued)

Word list : accident(ally), actual(ly), address, answer, appear, arrive, believe, bicycle, breath, breathe, build, busy/business, calendar, caught, centre, century, certain, circle, complete, consider, continue, decide, describe,

different, difficult, disappear, early, earth, eight/eighth, enough, exercise, experience, experiment, extreme, famous, favourite, February, forward(s), fruit, grammar, group, guard, guide, heard, heart, height, history, imagine, increase, important, interest, island, knowledge, learn, length, library, material, medicine, mention, minute, natural, naughty, notice, occasion(ally), often, opposite, ordinary, particular, peculiar, perhaps, popular, position, possess(ion), possible, potatoes, pressure, probably, promise, purpose, quarter, question, recent, regular, reign, remember, sentence, separate, special, straight, strange, strength, suppose, surprise, therefore, though/although, thought, through, various, weight, woman, women

Spelling Overview: Year 5 and 6

Endings spelt –cious or –tious vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious ambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious
Endings spelt- cial/tial official, special, artificial, partial, confidential, essential
Words ending in –ant, –ance/–ancy, –ent, –ence/–ency 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
Words ending in –able and –ible adorable/adorably (adoration), applicable/applicably (application), considerable/considerably (consideration), tolerable/tolerably (toleration) changeable, noticeable, forcible, legible dependable, comfortable, understandable, reasonable, enjoyable, reliable
Words ending in –ably and –ibly possible/possibly, horrible/horribly, terrible/terribly, visible/visibly, incredible/incredibly, sensible/sensibly
Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in –fer referring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, transferring, transferred, reference, referee, preference, transference
Use of the hyphen co-ordinate, re-enter, co-operate, co-own
Words with the l before e rule except after c deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling
Words containing the letter- string ough ought, bought, thought, nought, brought, fought rough, tough, enough, cough, though, although, dough, through, thorough, borough plough
Words with ‘silent’ letters doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight
Homophones and other words that are often confused advice/advise, device/devise, licence/license, practice/practise, prophecy/prophecy, farther/further/father, guessed/guest, heard/herd, led/lead, morning/mourning, past/passed, precede/proceed, principal/principle, profit/prophet, stationary/stationery, steal/steel, wary/weary, who’s/whose
Word list : accommodate, accompany, according, achieve, aggressive, amateur, ancient, apparent, appreciate, attached, available, average, awkward, bargain, bruise, category, cemetery, committee, communicate, community, competition, conscience*, conscious*, controversy, convenience, correspond, criticise, (critic + ise), curiosity, definite, desperate, determined, develop, dictionary, disastrous, embarrass, environment, equip (–ped, –ment), especially, exaggerate, excellent, existence, explanation, familiar, foreign, forty, frequently, government, guarantee, harass, hindrance, identity, immediate(ly), individual, interfere, interrupt, language, leisure, lightning, marvelous, mischievous, muscle, necessary, neighbour, nuisance, occupy, occur, opportunity, parliament, persuade, physical, prejudice, privilege, profession, programme, pronunciation, queue, recognise, recommend, relevant, restaurant, rhyme, rhythm, sacrifice, secretary, shoulder, signature, sincere(ly), soldier, stomach, sufficient, suggest, symbol, system, temperature, thorough, twelfth, variety, vegetable, vehicle, yacht