

Key Stage 2 Spelling in the National Curriculum

A quick reference to the spelling rules

Content domain reference	Relevant coverage in the programme of study and statutory appendices	Year group in the NC	Example words *Sample 2016 spelling paper words
S37	common exception words	Years 1–6	Years 1 and 2 common exception words, e.g. school, today, beautiful, children, improve Years 3 and 4 exceptions to the spelling rules, e.g. truly, duly, wholly, teacher, catcher, richer, stretcher Years 5 and 6 exceptions to the spelling rules, e.g. anxious, finance, commerce, sensible, protein, caffeine Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6 statutory word list, e.g. answer, remember, awkward, persuade, vehicle
S38	adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable	Years 3 and 4	forgetting, beginning, preferred, gardener, limited, limitation
S39	the /i/ (e.g. 'i' in the word 'bin') sound spelt 'y' other than at the end of words	Years 3 and 4	myth, Egypt, pyramid, mystery, crystal, gymnastics*
S40	the /ʌ/ (e.g. 'u' in the word 'up') sound spelt 'ou'	Years 3 and 4	young, touch, double, country*
S41	prefixes (e.g. un-, dis-, mis-, sub-, in-, super-, auto-, inter-, anti-, ir-, im-)	Year 3 and 4	disappoint, incorrect, subheading, supermarket, autobiography, discover*, dissolve*
S42	the suffix -ation	Years 3 and 4	information, preparation, admiration, sensation
S43	the suffix -ly	Years 3 and 4	sadly, completely, comically, happily, angrily, gently, basically, frantically
S44	words with endings sounding like /ʒə/ (zher) or /tʃə/ (chur) spelt -sure and -ture	Years 3 and 4	measure, treasure, creature, nature, adventure, posture*
S45	endings that sound like /ʒən/ (-sion)	Years 3 and 4	division, invasion, television, illusion*
S46	the suffix -ous	Years 3 and 4	poisonous, dangerous, vigorous, serious, courteous, delicious*, ominous*
S47	endings that sound like /ʃən/ (shun), spelt -tion, -sion, -ssion, -cian	Years 3 and 4	invention, expression, comprehension, electrician, magician, possession*, mission*
S48	words with the /k/ sound spelt 'ch'	Years 3 and 4	scheme, chorus, echo, character
S49	words with the /ʃ/ (sh) sound spelt 'ch'	Years 3 and 4	chef, chalet, machine, brochure, parachute*
S50	words ending with the /g/ sound spelt -gue and the /k/ sound spelt -que	Years 3 and 4	league, tongue, unique, antique
S51	words with the /s/ sound spelt 'sc'	Years 3 and 4	science, scene, fascinate, crescent, scent*
S52	words with the /eɪ/ (ay) sound spelt 'ei', 'eigh' or 'ey'	Years 3 and 4	vein, neighbour, they, obey, sleigh*
S53	endings that sound like /ʃəs/ spelt -cious or -tious	Years 5 and 6	vicious, precious, cautious, nutritious
S54	endings which sound like /ʃəl/ (shul)	Years 5 and 6	official, special, artificial, essential, confidential
S55	words ending in -ant, -ance, -ancy, -ent, -ence, -ency	Years 5 and 6	observant, innocent, expectant, confidence, abundance*
S56	words ending in -able and -ible and words ending in -ably and -ibly	Years 5 and 6	applicable, tolerable, comfortable, visible, sensible, sensibly, edible*, unavoidably*
S57	adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in -fer	Years 5 and 6	referred, transferred, referee, preference
S58	words with the /i:/ sound spelt 'ei' after 'c' (when the sound is 'ee')	Years 5 and 6	receive, deceive, ceiling, perceive
S59	words containing the letter string 'ough'	Years 5 and 6	bought, though, thorough, borough, although
S60	words with 'silent' letters (i.e. letters whose presence cannot be predicted from the pronunciation of the word)	Years 5 and 6	doubt, sign*, thistle, knight, lamb
S61	homophones and near-homophones (Years 3 and 4) homophones and other words that are often confused (Years 5 and 6)	Years 3–6	advise/advise, aloud/allowed, accept/except, brake/break, here/hear, past/passed, draw/drawer*, lose, loose*

Teachers **MUST** refer to the English programme of study. Also refer to the suffixes and prefixes in the Years 1 and 2 spelling appendix.

Word list – years 3 and 4

accident(ally)	forward(s)	potatoes
actual(ly)	fruit	pressure
address	grammar	probably
answer	group	promise
appear	guard	purpose
arrive	guide	quarter
believe	heard	question
bicycle	heart	recent
breath	height	regular
breathe	history	reign
build	imagine	remember
busy/business	increase	sentence
calendar	important	separate
caught	interest	special
centre	island	straight
century	knowledge	strange
certain	learn	strength
circle	length	suppose
complete	library	surprise
consider	material	therefore
continue	medicine	though/although
decide	mention	thought
describe	minute	through
different	natural	various
difficult	naughty	weight
disappear	notice	woman/women
early	occasion(ally)	
earth	often	
eight/eighth	opposite	
enough	ordinary	
exercise	particular	
experience	peculiar	
experiment	perhaps	
extreme	popular	
famous	position	
favourite	possess(ion)	
February	possible	