

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 /zə/ (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 /jəs/ 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 5 and 6

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| accommodate | especially | pronunciation |
| accompany | exaggerate | queue |
| according | excellent | recognise |
| achieve | existence | recommend |
| aggressive | explanation | relevant |
| amateur | familiar | restaurant |
| ancient | foreign | rhyme |
| apparent | forty | rhythm |
| appreciate | frequently | sacrifice |
| attached | government | secretary |
| available | guarantee | shoulder |
| average | harass | signature |
| awkward | hindrance | sincere(ly) |
| bargain | identity | soldier |
| bruise | immediate(ly) | stomach |
| category | individual | sufficient |
| cemetery | interfere | suggest |
| committee | interrupt | symbol |
| communicate | language | system |
| community | leisure | temperature |
| competition | lightning | thorough |
| conscience* | marvellous | twelfth |
| conscious* | mischievous | variety |
| controversy | muscle | vegetable |
| convenience | necessary | vehicle |
| correspond | neighbour | yacht |
| criticise (critic + ise) | nuisance | |
| curiosity | occupy | |
| definite | occur | |
| desperate | opportunity | |
| determined | parliament | |
| develop | persuade | |
| dictionary | physical | |
| disastrous | prejudice | |
| embarrass | privilege | |
| environment | profession | |
| equip (-ped, -ment) | programme | |