

Key Stage 1 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 Teachers MUST refer to the English programme of study.	Year group in the NC	Example words *Sample 2016 spelling paper words
S1	the sounds /f/, /l/, /s/, /z/ spelt 'ff', 'ss', 'zz', 'ck'	Year 1	off, well, miss, buzz, back. Exceptions: if, pal, us, bus, yes
S2	the /ng/ sound spelt 'n' before 'k'	Year 1	bank, think, honk, sunk
S3	-tch	Year 1	catch, fetch, kitchen, notch, hutch. Exceptions: rich, which, much, such
S4	the /v/ sound at the end of words	Year 1	have, give, live
S5	adding -s and -es to words (plural of nouns and the third person singular of verbs)	Year 1	cats, dogs, rocks, thanks, rooms, catches, washes, stitches, fingers*, paints*, sweets*
S6	adding endings -ing, -ed and -er to verbs where no change is needed to the root word	Year 1	hunting, hunted, hunter, buzzing, jumped, jumper, thanked*
S7	adding -er and -est to adjectives where no change is needed to the root word	Year 1	quicker, quickest, fresher, freshest, faster*
S8	vowel digraphs and trigraphs	Year 1	ai, oi, ay, oy, a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e, ar, ee, ea, er, er, ir, ur, oo, oa, oe, ou, ow, ow, ue, ew, ie, igh, or, ore, aw, au, air, ear, ear, are. E.g. group*, paints*, sweets*
S9	words ending in -y	Year 1	very, happy, funny, party, family
S10	new consonant spellings for 'ph' and 'wh'	Year 1	dolphin, alphabet, phonics, elephant, when, which, wheel, whale*
S11	using 'k' for the /k/ sound rather than 'c' before 'e', 'i' and 'y'	Year 1	Kent, sketch, kit, skin, kitten*
S12	compound words	Year 1	playground, football, farmyard, bedroom, blackberry, rainbow*
S13	the days of the week	Year 1	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday* (days of the week must be spelt with a capital letter)
S14	the /j/ as in 'jam' sound spelt -ge and -dge at the end of words, and sometimes a 'g' elsewhere in words before 'e', 'i' and 'y'	Year 2	badge, edge, bridge, dodge, fudge, age, huge, change, charge gem, giant, magic, energy, giraffe, jacket, jar, jog, join, adjust
S15	the /s/ sound spelt 'c' before 'e', 'i' and 'y'	Year 2	race, ice, cell, city, fancy, face*
S16	the /n/ sound spelt 'kn' and less often 'gn' at the beginning of words	Year 2	knock, know, knee, gnat, gnaw, knew*
S17	the /r/ sound spelt 'wr' at the beginning of words	Year 2	write, written, wrote, wrong, wrap
S18	the /l/ sound spelt 'le' at the end of words	Year 2	table, apple, bottle, little, middle
S19	the /l/ sound spelt 'el' at the end of words	Year 2	camel, tunnel, squirrel, travel, towel, tinsel, model*
S20	the /l/ sound spelt 'al' at the end of words	Year 2	metal, pedal, capital, hospital, animal, petal*
S21	words ending in -il	Year 2	pencil, fossil, nostril
S22	the /igh/ sound spelt 'y' at the end of words	Year 2	cry, fly, dry, try, reply, July (months of the year must be spelt with a capital letter)
S23	adding -es to nouns and verbs ending in -y	Year 2	flies, tries, replies, copies, babies, carries, teddies*
S24	adding -ed, -ing, -er, and -est to a root word ending in -y with a consonant before it	Year 2	copied, copier, happier, happiest, cried, hurried*
S25	adding the endings -ing, -ed, -er, -est and -y to words ending in -e with a consonant before it	Year 2	hiking, hiked, hiker, nicer, nicest, shiny, baking*. Exceptions: being
S26	adding the endings -ing, -ed, -er, -est and -y to words of one syllable ending in a single consonant letter after a single vowel letter	Year 2	patting, patted, humming, hummed, dropping, dropped, fatter, fattest, runner, runny, sunny*. Exceptions: The letter 'x' is never double: mixed, mixing, boxer, sixes
S27	the /or/ sound spelt 'a' before 'l' and 'll'	Year 2	all, ball, call, walk, talk, always
S28	the /u/ sound spelt 'o'	Year 2	other, mother, brother, nothing, Monday (days of the week must be spelt with a capital letter)
S29	the /ee/ sound spelt 'ey'	Year 2	key, monkey, donkey, valley, money, alley, hockey, honey
S30	the /o/ sound spelt 'a' after 'w' and 'qu'	Year 2	want, watch, wander, quantity, squash
S31	the /ur/ sound spelt 'or' after 'w'	Year 2	word, work, worm, worth, world*
S32	the /or/ sound spelt 'ar' after 'w'	Year 2	war, warm, towards
S33	the /zhur/ sound spelt 's'	Year 2	television, treasure, usual
S34	the suffixes -ment, -ness, -ful, -less and -ly	Year 2	enjoyment, payment, sadness, hopeless, happily, peaceful*
S35	words ending in -tion	Year 2	station, fiction, motion, nation, section
S36	homophones and near-homophones	Year 2	there/their/they're, here/hear, see/sea, sun/son
S37	common exception words	Years 1 and 2	the, a, friend, school, push, pull, everybody, plant, path, improve

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 /ʒəs/ 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	advice/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.