

Spelling – Work for Years 3 and 4

Revision of work from years 1 and 2

Pay special attention to the rules for adding suffixes.

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)	Shakespeare
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 gardening, gardener, limiting, limited, limitation	List 17 List 18
The /ɪ/ sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words	These words should be learnt as needed.	myth, gym, Egypt, pyramid, mystery	List 23
The /ʌ/ sound spelt ou	These words should be learnt as needed.	young, touch, double, trouble, country	List 16
More prefixes	<p>Most prefixes are added to the beginning of root words without any changes in spelling, but see in- below.</p> <p>Like un-, the prefixes dis- and mis- have negative meanings.</p> <p>The prefix in- can mean both 'not' and 'in'/'into'. In the words given here it means 'not'.</p> <p>Before a root word starting with l, in- becomes il.</p> <p>Before a root word starting with m or p, in- becomes im-.</p> <p>Before a root word starting with r, in- becomes ir-.</p>	<p>dis-: disappoint, disagree, disobey</p> <p>mis-: misbehave, mislead, misspell (mis+ spell)</p> <p>in-: inactive, incorrect</p> <p>illegal, illegible</p> <p>immature, immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect</p> <p>irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible</p>	List 16 List 23 List 23

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)	Shakespeare
	<p>re- means 'again' or 'back'.</p> <p>sub- means 'under'.</p> <p>inter- means 'between' or 'among'.</p> <p>super- means 'above'.</p> <p>anti- means 'against'.</p> <p>auto- means 'self' or 'own'.</p>	<p>re-: redo, refresh, return, reappear, redecorate</p> <p>sub-: subdivide, subheading, submarine, submerge</p> <p>inter-: interact, intercity, international, interrelated (inter + related)</p> <p>super-: supermarket, superman, superstar</p> <p>anti-: antiseptic, anti- clockwise, antisocial</p> <p>auto-: autobiography, autograph</p>	<p>List 23</p> <p>List 18</p> <p>List 22</p> <p>List 22</p> <p>List 22</p>
The suffix –ation	The suffix –ation is added to verbs to form nouns. The rules already learnt still apply.	information, adoration sensation, preparation, admiration	List 20
The suffix –ly	<p>The suffix –ly is added to an adjective to form an adverb. The rules already learnt still apply.</p> <p>The suffix –ly starts with a consonant letter, so it is added straight on to most root words.</p> <p>Exceptions:</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 –le, the –le is changed to –ly.</p> <p>(3) If the root word ends with –ic, –ally is added rather than just –ly, except in the word <i>publicly</i>.</p> <p>(4) The words <i>truly</i>, <i>duly</i>, <i>wholly</i>.</p>	<p>sadly, completely, usually (usual + ly), finally (final + ly), comically (comical + ly)</p> <p>happily, angrily</p> <p>gently, simply, humbly, nobly</p> <p>basically, frantically, dramatically</p>	List 15

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)	Shakespeare
Words with endings sounding like /ʒə/ or /tʃə/	<p>The ending sounding like /ʒə/ is always spelt –sure.</p> <p>The ending sounding like /tʃə/ is often spelt –ture, but check that the word is not a root word ending in (t)ch with an er ending – e.g. <i>teacher, catcher, richer, stretcher</i>.</p>	<p>measure, treasure, pleasure, enclosure</p> <p>creature, furniture, picture, nature, adventure</p>	List 17
Endings which sound like /ʒən/	If the ending sounds like /ʒən/, it is spelt as –sion .	division, invasion, confusion, decision, collision, television	List 19 List 20
The suffix –ous	<p>Sometimes the root word is obvious and the usual rules apply for adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters.</p> <p>Sometimes there is no obvious root word.</p> <p>–our is changed to –or before –ous is added.</p> <p>A final ‘e’ of the root word must be kept if the /dʒ/ sound of ‘g’ is to be kept.</p> <p>If there is an /i:/ sound before the –ous ending, it is usually spelt as i, but a few words have e.</p>	<p>poisonous, dangerous, mountainous, famous, various</p> <p>tremendous, enormous, jealous</p> <p>humorous, glamorous, vigorous</p> <p>courageous, outrageous</p> <p>serious, obvious, curious</p> <p>hideous, spontaneous, courteous</p>	List 21
Endings which sound like /ʃən/, spelt –tion , –sion , –ssion , –cian	<p>Strictly speaking, the suffixes are –ion and –ian. Clues about whether to put t, s, ss or c before these suffixes often come from the last letter or letters of the root word.</p> <p>–tion is the most common spelling. It is used if the root word ends in t or te.</p> <p>–ssion is used if the root word ends in ss or –mit.</p> <p>–sion is used if the root word ends in d or se.</p> <p>Exceptions: <i>attend – attention, intend – intention</i>.</p> <p>–cian is used if the root word ends in c or cs.</p>	<p>invention, injection, action, hesitation, completion</p> <p>expression, discussion, confession, permission, admission</p> <p>expansion, extension, comprehension, tension</p> <p>musician, electrician, magician, politician, mathematician</p>	List 19

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)	Shakespeare
Words with the /k/ sound spelt ch (Greek in origin)		scheme, chorus, chemist, echo, character	List 24
Words with the /ʃ/ sound spelt ch (mostly French in origin)		chef, chalet, machine, brochure	List 24
Words ending with the /g/ sound spelt – gue and the /k/ sound spelt –que (French in origin)		league, tongue, antique, unique	List 24
Words with the /s/ sound spelt sc (Latin in origin)	In the Latin words from which these words come, the Romans probably pronounced the c and the k as two sounds rather than one – /s/ /k/.	science, scene, discipline, fascinate, crescent	List 24
Words with the /eɪ/ sound spelt ei, eigh, or ey		vein, weigh, eight, neighbour, they, obey	List 17
Possessive apostrophe with plural words	The apostrophe is placed after the plural form of the word; –s is not added if the plural already ends in –s, but <i>is</i> added if the plural does not end in –s (i.e. is an irregular plural – e.g. <i>children’s</i>).	girls’, boys’, babies’, children’s, men’s, mice’s (Note: singular proper nouns ending in an s use the ’s suffix e.g. Cyprus’s population)	List 13

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)	Shakespeare
Homophones and 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	List 13 List 14

Common Exception Words – Years 3 and 4

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

Spelling – Years 5 and 6

Revise work done in previous years

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)	Shakespeare
Endings which sound like /ʃəs/ spelt –cious or –tious	<p>Not many common words end like this. If the root word ends in –ce, the /ʃ/ sound is usually spelt as c – e.g. <i>vice</i> – <i>vicious</i>, <i>grace</i> – <i>gracious</i>, <i>space</i> – <i>spacious</i>, <i>malice</i> – <i>malicious</i>.</p> <p>Exception: <i>anxious</i>.</p>	<p>vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious ambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious</p>	List 25
Endings which sound like /ʃəl/	<p>–cial is common after a vowel letter and –tial after a consonant letter, but there are some exceptions.</p> <p>Exceptions: initial, financial, commercial, provincial (the spelling of the last three is clearly related to <i>finance</i>, <i>commerce</i> and <i>province</i>).</p>	<p>official, special, artificial, partial, confidential, essential</p>	List 26
Words ending in –ant, –ance/–ancy, –ent, –ence/–ency	<p>Use –ant and –ance/–ancy if there is a related word with a /æ/ or /eɪ/ sound in the right position; –ation endings are often a clue.</p> <p>Use –ent and –ence/–ency after soft c (/s/ sound), soft g (/dʒ/ sound) and qu, or if there is a related word with a clear /ɛ/ sound in the right position. There are many words, however, where the above guidance does not help. These words just have to be learnt.</p>	<p>observant, observance, (observ<u>a</u>tion), expectant (expect<u>a</u>tion), hesitant, hesitancy (hesit<u>a</u>tion), tolerant, tolerance (toler<u>a</u>tion), substance (subst<u>a</u>ntial)</p> <p>innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, confident, confidence (confidential)</p> <p>assistant, assistance, obedient, obedience,</p> <p>independent, independence</p>	<p>List 27</p> <p>List 27</p>

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)	Shakespeare
<p>Words ending in –able and –ible</p> <p>Words ending in –ably and –ibly</p>	<p>The –able/–ably endings are far more common than the –ible/–ibly endings.</p> <p>As with –ant and –ance/–ancy, the –able ending is used if there is a related word ending in –ation.</p> <p>If the –able ending is added to a word ending in –ce or –ge, the e after the c or g must be kept as those letters would otherwise have their ‘hard’ sounds (as in <i>cap</i> and <i>gap</i>) before the a of the –able ending.</p> <p>The –able 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 –ation.</p> <p>The first five examples opposite are obvious; in <i>reliable</i>, the complete word <i>rely</i> is heard, but the y changes to i in accordance with the rule.</p> <p>The –ible ending is common if a complete root word can’t be heard before it but it also sometimes occurs when a complete word <i>can</i> be heard (e.g. <i>sensible</i>).</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>List 29</p>
<p>Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in –fer</p>	<p>The r is doubled if the –fer is still stressed when the ending is added.</p> <p>The r is not doubled if the –fer is no longer stressed.</p>	<p>referring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, transferring, transferred</p> <p>reference, referee, preference, transference</p>	<p>List 28</p> <p>List 30</p>

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)	Shakespeare
Use of the hyphen	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.	co-ordinate, re-enter, co-operate, co-own	List 30
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:/. Exceptions: <i>protein, caffeine, seize</i> (and <i>either</i> and <i>neither</i> if pronounced with an initial /i:/ sound).	deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling	List 30
Words containing the letter-string -ough	ough 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	List 25
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 <i>knight</i> , there was a /k/ sound before the /n/, and the gh used to represent the sound that 'ch' now represents in the Scottish word <i>loch</i> .	doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight	List 31

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)	Shakespeare
Homophones and other words that are often confuse	<p>In the pairs of words opposite, nouns end –ce and verbs end –se. <i>Advice</i> and <i>advise</i> provide a useful clue as the word <i>advise</i> (verb) is pronounced with a /z/ sound – which could not be spelt c.</p> <p><u>More examples:</u></p> <p>aisle: a gangway between seats (in a church, train, plane). isle: an island. aloud: out loud. allowed: permitted. affect: usually a verb (e.g. <i>The weather may affect our plans</i>). effect: usually a noun (e.g. <i>It may have an effect on our plans</i>). If a verb, it means ‘bring about’ (e.g. <i>He will effect changes in the running of the business</i>). altar: a table-like piece of furniture in a church. alter: to change. ascent: the act of ascending (going up). assent: to agree/agreement (verb and noun). bridal: to do with a bride at a wedding. bridle: reins etc. for controlling a horse. cereal: made from grain (e.g. <i>breakfast cereal</i>). serial: adjective from the noun <i>series</i> – a succession of things one after the other. compliment: to make nice remarks about someone (verb) or the remark that is made (noun). complement: related to the word <i>complete</i> – to make something complete or more complete (e.g. <i>her scarf complemented her outfit</i>).</p>	<p>advice/advise device/devise licence/license practice/practise prophecy/prophesy</p> <p>farther: further father: a male parent guessed: past tense of the verb <i>guess</i> guest: visitor</p> <p>heard: past tense of the verb <i>hear</i></p> <p>herd: a group of animals led: past tense of the verb <i>lead</i></p> <p>lead: present tense of that verb, or else the metal which is very heavy (<i>as heavy as lead</i>)</p> <p>morning: before noon mourning: grieving for someone who has died past: noun or adjective referring to a previous time (e.g. <i>In the past</i>) or preposition or adverb showing place (e.g. <i>he walked past me</i>) passed: past tense of the verb ‘pass’ (e.g. <i>I passed him in the road</i>) precede: go in front of or before proceed: go on</p>	<p>List 25</p> <p>List 26</p> <p>List 30</p>

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)	Shakespeare
<p>Homophones and other words that are often confused (continued)</p>	<p>descent: the act of descending (going down).</p> <p>dissent: to disagree/disagreement (verb and noun).</p> <p>desert: as a noun – a barren place (stress on first syllable); as a verb – to abandon (stress on second syllable) dessert: (stress on second syllable) a sweet course after the main course of a meal.</p> <p>draft: noun – a first attempt at writing something; verb – to make the first attempt; also, to draw in someone (e.g. <i>to draft in extra help</i>)</p> <p>draught: a current of air.</p>	<p>principal: adjective – most important (e.g. <i>principal ballerina</i>) noun – important person (e.g. <i>principal of a college</i>) principle: basic truth or belief profit: money that is made in selling things prophet: someone who foretells the future stationary: not moving stationery: paper, envelopes etc. steal: take something that does not belong to you steel: metal wary: cautious weary: tired who's: contraction of <i>who is</i> or <i>who has</i> whose: belonging to someone (e.g. <i>Whose jacket is that?</i>)</p>	<p>List 31</p> <p>List 27</p> <p>List 28</p> <p>List 28</p>

Common Exception Words – Years 5 and 6

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