

# Key Stage 3 Spelling List

## General spelling list

The following list of spellings was compiled by a number of secondary schools who all identified the following words as common errors among this age group.

The list is not intended for blanket teaching, because most pupils will know how to spell most of the words, but it is recommended that early in Year 7, pupils should be helped to learn those spellings about which they still are uncertain.

accommodation	conclusion	explanation
actually	conscience	February
alcohol	conscious	fierce
although	consequence	forty
analyse/analysis	continuous	fulfil
argument	creation	furthermore
assessment	daughter	guard
atmosphere	decide/decision	happened
audible	definite	health
audience	design	height
autumn	development	imaginary
beautiful	diamond	improvise
beginning	diary	industrial
believe	disappear	interesting
beneath	disappoint	interrupt
buried	embarrass	issue
business	energy	jealous
caught	engagement	knowledge
chocolate	enquire	listening
climb	environment	lonely
column	evaluation	lovely
concentration	evidence	marriage

material	potential	sincerely
meanwhile	preparation	skilful
miscellaneous	prioritise	soldier
mischief	process	stomach
modern	proportion	straight
moreover	proposition	strategy
murmur	questionnaire	strength
necessary	queue	success
nervous	reaction	surely
original	receive	surprise
outrageous	reference	survey
parallel	relief	technique
participation	remember	technology
pattern	research	texture
peaceful	resources	tomorrow
people	safety	unfortunately
performance	Saturday	Wednesday
permanent	secondary	weight
persuade/persuasion	separate	weird
physical	sequence	women
possession	shoulder	

### **Common homophones and confusions**

advise/advice	choose/chose	quiet/quite
a lot of	cloth/clothe	sites/sights
affect/effect	conscience/conscious	source/sauce
allowed/aloud	course/coarse	thank you
bought/brought	our/are	threw/through
braking/breaking	practise/practice	to/too/two

## Subject spelling lists

These lists of subject spellings were compiled by a number of secondary school departments. They identified the words listed as being words that were often needed and often incorrectly spelt.

Schools may use these suggestions as the basis for local lists suitable for their own topics and needs.

The list is not intended for blanket teaching, because all pupils will know how to spell some of the words. However, it is recommended that pupils should be helped to learn those spellings about which they are uncertain.

### Art

abstract	easel	kiln
acrylic	exhibition	landscape
charcoal	foreground	palette
collage	frieze	pastel
collection	gallery	perspective
colour	highlight	portrait
crosshatch	illusion	sketch
dimension	impasto	spectrum
display		

### D and T

aesthetic	hygiene	presentation
brief	ingredient	production
carbohydrate	innovation	protein
component	knife/knives	recipe
design	linen	sew
diet	machine	specification
disassemble	manufacture	technology
evaluation	mineral	tension
fabric	natural	textile

fibre

nutrition

vitamin

flour

polyester

flowchart

portfolio

## **English**

advertise/advertisement

figurative

preposition

alliteration

genre

resolution

apostrophe

grammar

rhyme

atmosphere

imagery

scene

chorus

metaphor

simile

clause

myth

soliloquy

cliché

narrative/narrator

subordinate

comma

onomatopoeia

suffix

comparison

pamphlet

synonym

conjunction

paragraph

tabloid

consonant

personification

vocabulary

dialogue

playwright

vowel

exclamation

plural

expression

prefix

## **Geography**

abroad

function

poverty

amenity

globe

provision

atlas

habitat

region/regional

authority

infrastructure

rural

climate

international

settlement

contour

landscape

situation

country

latitude

tourist/tourism

county

location

transport/transportation

desert

longitude

urban

employment

nation/national

wealth

erosion

physical

weather

estuary

pollution

## **History**

agriculture/agricultural

defence

politics/political

bias

disease

priest

castle

document

propaganda

cathedral

dynasty

Protestant

Catholic

economy/economic(al)

rebel/rebellion

chronology/chronological

emigration

reign

citizen

government

religious

civilisation

immigrant

republic

colony/colonisation

imperial/imperialism

revolt/revolution

conflict

independence

siege

constitution/constitutional

invasion

source

contradict/contradiction

motive

trade

current

parliament

traitor

## **ICT**

binary

hardware

network

byte

icon

output

cable

input

password

cartridge

interactive

preview

CD-ROM

interface

processor

computer

Internet

program

connect/connection

justify

scanner

cursor

keyboard

sensor

data/database

megabyte

server

delete

memory

software

disk	modem	spreadsheet
document	module	virus
electronic	monitor	
graphic	multimedia	

### **Library**

alphabet/alphabetical	encyclopaedia	novel
anthology	extract	photocopy
article	fantasy	publisher
author	genre	relevant/relevance
catalogue	glossary	romance
classification	index	section
content	irrelevant/irrelevance	series
copyright	librarian	system
dictionary	magazine	thesaurus
editor	non-fiction	

### **Mathematics**

addition	estimate	positive
adjacent	equation	quadrilateral
alternate	fraction	questionnaire
angle	graph	radius
amount	guess	ratio
approximately	horizontal	recurring
average	isosceles	reflect/reflection
axis/axes	kilogram	regular/irregular
calculate	kilometre	rhombus
centimetre	litre	rotate/rotation
circumference	measure	square
corresponding	metre	subtraction

co-ordinate	minus	symmetry/symmetrical
decimal	multiply/multiplication	triangle/triangular
degree	parallel/parallelogram	tonne
denominator	negative	vertex/vertices
diameter	numerator	vertical
digit	percentage	volume
divide/division	perimeter	weight
equilateral	perpendicular	

### **Music**

choir	minim	score
chord	minor	semibreve
chromatic	musician	synchronise
composition/conductor	octave	syncopation
crotchet	orchestra/orchestral	tempo
dynamics	ostinato	ternary
harmony	percussion	timbre
instrument/instrumental	pitch	triad
interval	quaver	vocal
lyric	rhythm	
major	scale	

### **PE**

active/activity	injury	qualify
agile/agility	league	relay
athletic/athlete	medicine	squad
bicep	mobile/mobility	tactic
exercise	muscle	tournament
field	personal	triceps
gym/gymnastic	pitch	

hamstring

quadriceps

## **PSHE**

able/ability

effort

reality

achieve/achievement

emotion/emotional

relationship

addict/addiction

encourage/encouragement

represent/representative

approve/approval

gender

reward

communication

generous/generosity

sanction

control

involve/involvement

sexism/sexist

dependant/dependency

prefer/preference

stereotype

discipline

pressure

discussion

racism/racist

## **RE**

baptism

Hindu/Hinduism

prophet

Bible/biblical

hymn

religious/religion

Buddhist/Buddhism

immoral/immorality

shrine

burial

Islam

sign

celebrate/celebration

Israel

Sikh/Sikhism

ceremony

Judaism/Jewish

special

Christian

marriage

spirit/spiritual

commandment

miracle

symbol

commitment

moral/morality

synagogue

creation

Muslim

temple

disciple

parable

wedding

faith

pilgrim/pilgrimage

worship

festival

pray/prayer

funeral

prejudice



## Science

absorb	exchange	organism
acid	freeze	oxygen
alkaline	frequency	particles
amphibian	friction	predator
apparatus	function	pressure
chemical	growth	reproduce
circulate/circulation	hazard	respire/respiration
combustion	insect	solution
condensation	laboratory	temperature
cycle	liquid	thermometer
digest/digestion	mammal	vertebrate
element	method	vessel
evaporation	nutrient	