

Year Group	Spelling	Statutory requirements	Guidance for Teachers	Examples
Y2	Review of work from Year 1. Is each pupil secure in phonics? Have they passed the phonic screening check? Revisit phase 5 GPCs as required by pupils.			
	Homophones		Introduce Y2 homophones when relevant	see/sea, be/bee, blue/blew, bear/bare, flour/flower, hear/here, whole/hole, one/won, sun/son, no/know, night/knight, to/too/two
	Year 2 phonics	The sound /j/ spelt 'dge' or 'ge' and sometimes spelt 'g'	The sound is spelt 'g' in words before e, l and y	edge, bridge, ridge, ledge, hedge rage, page, stage, huge magic, rigid, giant, giraffe, gentle
		The /s/ sound spelt c before e, i and y	The 'soft c'	city, race, ice, circle, cycle, once, pencil, fancy
		The /n/ sound spelt kn and (less often) gn at the start of words	These words should simply be learnt	know, knee, knock, knit, knew, knife gnat, gnu, gnome, gnaw
	Suffixes	Add ing, ed, er, est, y to words ending in 'e' with a consonant before it	Words such as shine, make, like, ride Drop the 'e' and add the suffix	shining, shiny, riding, rider, writing
		Apostrophes	Contraction	Two words (expanded form) contract to form one word (contracted form) This terminology should be taught Pupils should recognise that the placement of the apostrophe marks the omitted letters from the expanded form

		Possession	At this stage, the possessive apostrophe should be taught for singular nouns only Reinforce to pupils not to simply place apostrophes in any word ending in s	The girl's coat The dog's basket The man's car Paul's pencil, Stacey's chair etc
Y3/Y4	Review of work from Years 1 and 2: Pay special attention to the rules for adding suffixes			
	i: y middle	The /l/ sound spelt y elsewhere other than the end of a word	These words should be learnt as needed	myth, gym, Egypt, pyramid, mystery, hymn, crypt, calypso, crystal, cygnet, lyric, rhythm, oxygen, physics, symbol, system, symptom, syrup, typical
	u: ou	The /ʌ/ sound spelt ou	These words should be learnt as needed	young, touch, double, trouble, country, young, enough, couple, cousin, rough, tough, southern, nourish, courage
	k: ch	Words with the /k/ sound spelt ch (Greek in origin)		scheme, chorus, chemist, echo, character, chord, stomach, ache, anchor, schedule, Christmas, character, choir, technology
	sh: ch	Words with the /sh/ sound spelt ch (mostly French in origin)		chef, chalet, machine, brochure, parachute, moustache
	g: gue	Words ending with the /g/ sound spelt gue		league, colleague, catalogue, dialogue, plague, vague, tongue, rogue, prologue, synagogue
	k: que	Words ending with the /k/ sound spelt que (French origin)		cheque, unique, antique, plaque, mosque, opaque, physique, grotesque
	s: sc	Words with the /s/ sound spelt sc (Latin origin)	In the Latin words from which these words come, the Romans probably pronounced the c and	scene, scenario, science, scissors, discipline, fascinate, crescent, ascend

			the k as two sounds rather than one - /s/ /k/	
	ay: ei	Words with the /ei/ sound spelt ei, eigh, or ey		veil, abseil, beige, feign, feint, rein, reign,
	ay: eigh			weigh, eight, neighbour, sleigh, neigh
	ay: ey			they, obey
	' reg plural	Possessive apostrophe in 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 is added if the plural does not end in -s (i.e. is an irregular plural – e.g. children's, people's) Reinforce the need to consider the reason for using an apostrophe	girls', boys', pupils', babies' children's, people's
	prefixes	un-	The prefix un- has a negative meaning	unable, unbeaten, unlock, uncover, undo, unavailable, unpack, unselfish, unwell, unwind, ungrateful, unfortunate
		dis-	The prefix dis- has a negative meaning	disable, disagree, disclose, discover, disease, disgrace, dislike, disobey, disbelief, disqualify, dissolve
		mis-	The prefix mis- has a negative meaning	misbehave, misfire, mishear, mislead, misplace, misspell, misadventure, misfortune, miscalculate, misunderstand
		re-	The prefix re- means 'again' or 'back'	refill, reform, refresh, replay, replace, return, reuse, recycle, reconfigure, redo, reheat, rewind, rebuild, rewire

	suffixes	-ly	The suffix –ly starts with a consonant, so is usually just added straight on to words	weekly, wisely, blindly, bravely, correctly, fairly, hardly, kindly, lively, proudly, shyly, suddenly, slowly, anxiously
		-sure	The ending sounding like 'zhur' is always spelt 'sure'	measure, treasure, pleasure, enclosure, composure, leisure, pressure, exposure, reassure, closure
		-ture	The ending sounding like 'chur' is often spelt 'ture' but check that it is not a root word ending in (t)ch with an –er suffix e.g. teacher, catcher, stretcher, pitcher	picture, feature, adventure, miniature, signature, temperature, capture, creature, furniture, mixture
		-sion	The ending sounding like 'zhun' is spelt as -sion	collision, confusion, decision, erosion, exclusion, invasion, occasion, intrusion, television, supervision
	The suffix -ous	-ous	Sometimes the root word is obvious and the usual rule applies for adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters	poisonous, dangerous, mountainous, famous, perilous, luminous, marvellous, nervous, ridiculous, miraculous
		-ous	Sometimes there is no obvious root word	tremendous, fabulous, enormous, jealous, generous, tempestuous, scrupulous, ominous
		our to or	-our is changed to –or before –ous is added	vigorous, humorous, glamorous
		geous	A final 'e' must be kept if the /dg/ sound of 'g' is to be kept	courageous, outrageous, gorgeous, advantageous
		ious	If there is an /i/ sound before the ending, the 'i' is usually kept	various, anxious, conscious, delicious, furious, glorious, gracious, luxurious, mysterious, suspicious, tedious
		eous	A few words have e	hideous, spontaneous, courteous, nauseous, righteous, simultaneous

	The 'shun' suffix -tion -sion -ssion -cian	-tion	-tion is the most common spelling – used after root words ending in t or te	completion, operation, invention, injection, situation, imagination, relocation, pollution, attraction, ambition, option, education
		-sion	-sion is used if the root word ends in d or se.	expansion, extension, comprehension, tension, ascension (Exceptions: attend-attention, intend-intention)
		-ssion	-ssion is used if the root ends in ss or mit	admission, aggression, depression, discussion, mission, possession, procession, profession
		-cian	-cian is used if the root ends in c or cs (Usually an occupation or job)	optician, electrician, musician, mathematician, magician, politician
	Homophones or near-homophones		These should be reinforced through teaching of word meanings and regular practice	accept/except, affect/effect, ball/bawl, berry/bury, brake/break, fair/fare, grate/great, here/hear, there/their/they're, your/you're, where/were/wear/we're, which/witch
	Further prefixes	sub-	Means 'under'	subdivide, submerge, subheading
		inter-	Means 'between' or 'among'	interactive, interfere, intervene
		super-	Means 'above'	supervise, supersonic, supermarket
		anti-	Means 'against'	antifreeze, antibody, anticlockwise
		auto-	Means 'self' or 'own'	autobiography, autocorrect, autograph
		in-	Means 'not' or 'in/into'	inaccurate, inedible, inexpensive
		il-	Before a root starting with l	illegal, illegible, illiterate
		im-	Before a root starting with m or p	immaculate, immobile, imperfect
ir-	Before a root starting with r	irregular, irrational, irresponsible		
Y 3/4	accident(ally), actual(ly), address, answer, appear, arrive			

Word List	believe, bicycle, breath, breathe, build, busy/business calendar, caught, centre, century, certain, circle, complete, consider, continue decide, describe, different, difficult, disappear early, earth, eight/eighth, enough, exercise, experience, experiment, extreme famous, favourite, February, forward(s), fruit grammar, group, guard, guide heard, heart, height, history imagine, increase, important, interest, island knowledge learn, length, library material, medicine, mention, minute natural, naughty, notice occasion(ally), often, opposite, ordinary particular, peculiar, perhaps, popular, position, possess(ion), possible, potatoes, pressure, probably, promise, purpose quarter, question recent, regular, reign, remember sentence, separate, special, straight, strange, strength, suppose, surprise therefore, though/although, thought, through various weight, woman/women			
Y5/Y6	Review of work from Years 3 and 4: Pay special attention to the rules for adding prefixes and suffixes			
More complex suffixes	-cious	After words ending in -ce	conscious, precious, spacious, gracious, ferocious, audacious	
	-tious	After nouns ending in tion	ambitious, cautious, infectious, nutritious, fictitious, superstitious	
	-cial	Common after a vowel letter or the ending -ce	social, special, official, financial, commercial, crucial, artificial, racial, facial, glacial, judicial	
	-tial	After a consonant letter	potential, essential, initial, substantial, residential, presidential, influential, circumstantial, partial	

		-ant/-ance/-ancy	-ation endings are often a clue	important/ance, significant/ance, defendant, servant, relevant/ance, assistant/ance, distant/ance, pregnant/ancy, elegant/ance, redundant/ancy, reluctant/ance
		-ent/-ence/-ency	After a soft c sound Which words end in ant/ent sometimes just need to be learnt – often there is no clear rule	government, parliament, different/ence, argument, experience, influence, conference, offence, conscience, science, president/ency, transparent/ency, current/ency, sufficient, dependent, occurrence, decent/ency
		-able/-ably	Usually there is a complete root word, but not always. Usual rules for adding suffixes with vowel letters apply e.g. drop the e, y to an i etc (there are exceptions e.g. changeable)	adorable, advisable, avoidable, comfortable, changeable, capable, breakable, identifiable, fashionable, manageable, miserable, inexcusable probably, presumably, reasonably, remarkably, unavoidably, conceivably, uncontrollably, impeccably
	-fer suffix	-fer (stressed)	When the –fer is stressed, double the ‘r’	conferring, deferring, inferring, preferring, referral, preferred, referred
		-fer (unstressed)	When the –fer is unstressed, the ‘r’ is not doubled	reference, preference, referee, buffering, differed, differing, offered, offering, suffering, suffered
	Use of the hyphen	Hyphens to separate prefixes from root words	If the prefix ends with a vowel letter and the root word also begins with a vowel, the hyphen is added to avoid creating the wrong sound. It can also be	co-ordinate, re-enter, co-operate, co-own re-sign, re-cover as opposed to resign and recover

			added to make the meaning of the word clear	
	ee:ei	Words with the /i/ or /ee/ sound spelt i before e Knowledge of the 'i before e, except after c' rule and the many exceptions	'i before e, except after c' can be a useful rule for words with the /ee/ sound in the middle, but there are as many exceptions to the rule as words that follow it.	ceiling, conceit, receipt, deceive, receive, conceited Exceptions: protein, caffeine, seize, either, neither
	ough	or	ough is one of the trickiest spellings in English – it can be used to spell a number of different sounds	ought, thought, nought, brought, fought
		u f		rough, tough, enough
		o		cough
		o-e		though, although, dough
		oo		through, breakthrough
		u		thorough, borough
		ow		plough, bough
	silent letters	Words with silent letters	Some letters which are no longer sounded used to be sounded hundreds of years ago e.g. in 'knight' there was a k sound before the n and the gh sound used to represent the sound that ch now represents e.g. in the Scottish word 'loch'	a – artistically, logically, musically b – bomb, dumb, lamb, numb, thumb, doubt, debris, comb, crumb c – abscess, ascend, ascent, conscience, conscious, crescent, fascinate, muscle d – Wednesday, sandwich, handsome, edge, bridge, handkerchief e – breathe g – sign, champagne, gnaw, reign, align, campaign, design, feign, foreign, gnarl, gnash, gnome, resign h – honest, ghost, heir, hour, what, whether, rhubarb, rhyme, ache, anchor, chemical, chemist, character, Christmas, chrome, echo, mechanical, monarch, scheme,

				<p>school, stomach, technical, technique, technology</p> <p>i – business</p> <p>k – kned, knife, knew, knight, knock, know, knowledge, kneel, knickers, knit, knuckle</p> <p>l – would, should, calf, half, salmon, talk, yolk, folk, calm</p> <p>m – mnemonic</p> <p>n – autumn, column, condemn, damn, hymn, solemn</p> <p>o – colonel</p> <p>p – coup, pneumonia, psychology, receipt, pseudo</p> <p>s – isle, aisle, island, debris</p> <p>t – asthma, ballet, castle, listen, glisten, hustle, soften, whistle, wrestle</p> <p>u – guess, guard, guide, guilt, guitar, baguette, disguise</p> <p>w – answer, sword, two, whole, wrist, write, who, playwright, wrap, wreck, wreak, wrench, wrestle, wriggle</p> <p>x – faux pas, xylophone</p> <p>z - rendezvous</p>
	Homophones	nouns and verbs ending ce/se	These pairs of words are often confused so pupils should know that the word ending ce (e.g. practice) is a noun and the equivalent word ending se (practise) is a verb	<p>practice/practise</p> <p>advice/advise</p> <p>device/devise</p> <p>licence/license</p> <p>prophecy/prophesy</p>
		Other homophones and 'near-homophones'	These words sound the same or very similar but have different spellings and different meanings	<p>aisle/isle/I'll</p> <p>aloud/allowed</p> <p>affect/effect</p>

			<p>Pupils should investigate the meanings and etymology of pairs of words using dictionaries. They should also be taught to explicitly proofread for incorrect homophones in their written work</p>	<p>altar/alter ascent/assent bridal/bridle cereal/serial compliment/complement descent/dissent desert/dessert draft/draught father/farther guessed/guest heard/herd led/lead morning/mourning past/passed precede/proceed principal/principle profit/prophet stationary/stationery steal/steel wary/weary</p>
		<p>Commonly used homophones</p>	<p>These words are used very frequently and are often the words pupils struggle with the most. It is vital that by the end of KS2 pupils can use these securely.</p> <p>Teachers should teach these explicitly and constantly reinforce/model their correct usage across all written work.</p>	<p>there/their/they're where/were/wear/we're your/you're to/too/two which/witch</p>
<p>Y5/6 Word List</p>	<p>accommodate, accompany, according, achieve, aggressive, amateur, ancient, apparent, appreciate attached, average, awkward bargain, bruise</p>			

category, cemetery, committee, communicate, community, competition, conscience, conscious, controversy,
convenience, correspond, criticise, curiosity
definite, desperate, determined, develop, dictionary, disastrous
embarrass, environment, equipped, equipment, especially, exaggerate, excellent, existence, explanation
familiar, foreign, forty, frequently
government, guarantee
harass, hindrance
identity, immediately, individual, interfere, interrupt
language, leisure, lightning
marvellous, mischievous, muscle
necessary, neighbour, nuisance
occupy, occur, opportunity
parliament, persuade, physical, prejudice, privilege, profession, programme, pronunciation
queue
recognise, recommend, relevant, restaurant, rhyme, rhythm
sacrifice, secretary, shoulder, signature, sincerely, soldier, stomach, sufficient, suggest, symbol, system
temperature, thorough, twelfth
variety, vegetable, vehicle
yacht