



## Spelling – years 5 and 6

Revise work done in previous years

New work for years 5 and 6

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidelines (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
Endings which sound like /ʃəs/ spelt <b>-cious</b> or <b>-tious</b>	Not many common words end like this. If the root word ends in <b>-ce</b> , the /ʃ/ sound is usually spelt as <b>c</b> – e.g. <i>vice – vicious, grace – gracious, space – spacious, malice – malicious</i> . <b>Exception:</b> <i>anxious</i>	vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious, ambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious  <i>ferocious</i>
Endings which sound like /ʃəl/	<b>-cial</b> is common after a vowel letter and <b>-tial</b> after a consonant letter, but there are some exceptions. <b>Exceptions:</b> <i>initial, financial, commercial, provincial</i> (the spelling of the last three is clearly related to <i>finance, commerce</i> and <i>province</i> ).	official, special, artificial, partial, confidential, essential  <i>potential, initial, crucial, social</i>
Words ending in <b>-ant, -ance/-ancy, -ent, -ence/-ency</b>	Use <b>-ant</b> and <b>-ance/-ancy</b> if there is a related word with a /æ/ or /eɪ/ sound in the right position; <b>-ation</b> endings are often a clue.  Use <b>-ent</b> and <b>-ence/-ency</b> after soft <b>c</b> (/s/ sound), soft <b>g</b> (/dʒ/ sound) and <b>qu</b> , or if there is a related word with a clear /ɛ/ sound in the right position.  There are many words, however, where the above guidelines don't help. These words just have to be learnt.	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)  innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, confident, confidence (confid <u>e</u> ntial)  assistant, assistance, obedient, obedience, independent, independ <u>e</u> nce
Words ending in <b>-able</b> and <b>-ible</b>	The <b>-able</b> ending is far more common than the <b>-ible</b> ending.  As with <b>-ant</b> and <b>-ance/-ancy</b> , the <b>-able</b> ending is used if there is a related word ending in <b>-ation</b> . If the <b>-able</b> ending is added to a word ending in <b>-ce</b> or <b>-ge</b> , the <b>e</b> after the <b>c</b> or <b>g</b> must be kept as those letters would otherwise have their 'hard' sounds (as in <i>cap</i> and <i>gap</i> ) before the <b>a</b> of the <b>-able</b> ending. The <b>-able</b> ending is usually but not always used if a complete root word can be heard before it, even if there is no	adorable (ador <u>a</u> tion), applicable (applic <u>a</u> tion), considerable (consider <u>a</u> tion), tolerable (toler <u>a</u> tion)  changeable, noticeable, forcible, legible  dependable, comfortable, understandable, reasonable, enjoyable, reliable



	<p>related word ending in <b>-ation</b>. The first five examples opposite are obvious; in <i>reliable</i>, the complete word <i>rely</i> is heard, but the <b>y</b> changes to <b>i</b> in accordance with the rule.</p> <p>The <b>-ible</b> 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>possible, horrible, terrible, visible, incredible, sensible</p> <p><i>suitable, miserable, probable, comfortable, horrible, possible, impossible, collectible, terrible, legible, credible, illegible, revisable, invincible</i></p>
<p><b>Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in -fer</b></p>	<p>The <b>r</b> is doubled if the <b>-fer</b> is still stressed when the ending is added.</p> <p>The <b>r</b> is not doubled if the <b>-fer</b> is no longer stressed.</p>	<p>referring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, transferring, transferred</p> <p>reference, referee, preference, transference</p>
<p><b>Use of the hyphen</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>co-ordinate, <i>co-ordination</i> re-enter, co-operate, <i>co-operation</i>, co-own</p>
<p><b>Words with the /i:/ sound spelt ei after c</b></p>	<p>The 'i before e except after c' rule applies to words where the sound spelt by <b>ei</b> is /i:/. Exceptions: <i>protein, caffeine, seize</i> (and <i>either</i> and <i>neither</i> if pronounced with an initial /i:/ sound).</p>	<p>deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling</p> <p><i>receipt, deceit, conceit</i></p>
<p><b>Words containing the letter-string ough</b></p>	<p><b>ough</b> is one of the trickiest spellings in English – it can be used to spell a number of different sounds.</p>	<p>ought, bought, thought, nought, brought, fought rough, tough, enough cough though, although, dough through thorough, borough plough</p>
<p><b>Words with 'silent' letters (i.e. letters whose presence cannot be predicted from the pronunciation of the word)</b></p>	<p>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 <b>gh</b> used to represent the sound that 'ch' now represents in the Scottish word <i>loch</i>.</p>	<p>doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight</p> <p><i>silent B: bomb, climb, comb, crumb, debt, plumber, dumb, womb, tomb, thumb, numb, limb, lamb</i></p> <p><i>silent C: ascend, descend, muscle, scene, scent, scissors, isosceles, disciple, fascinate, conscious, conscience, science, crescent</i></p> <p><i>Silent G: gnaw, gnome, foreign, gnarl, gnash, sign, resign, design</i></p> <p><i>Silent K: knight, knuckle, know, knob, knock, knowledge, knit, knot, knife, knew, knee, kneel, knickers, knead</i></p>



		<p>Silent N: Autumn, column, solemn, hymn, damn, condemn,</p> <p>Silent P: receipt</p> <p>Silent T: apostle, thistle, fasten, soften, castle, bristle, whistle, wrestle, listen, bustle, bustling, rustle, rustling</p> <p>Silent W: wriggle, sword, wreck, wrap, wrinkle, wrist, write, written, writing, wrote</p>
<p><b>Homophones and other words that are often confused</b></p>	<p>In these pairs of words, nouns end <b>-ce</b> and verbs end <b>-se</b>. <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 <b>c</b>.</p> <p>aisle: a gangway between seats (in a church, train, plane) isle: an island</p> <p>aloud: out loud allowed: permitted</p> <p>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>).</p> <p>altar: a table-like piece of furniture in a church alter: to change</p> <p>ascent: the act of ascending (going up) assent: to agree/agreement (verb and noun)</p> <p>bridal: to do with a bride at a wedding bridle: reins etc. for controlling a horse</p> <p>cereal: made from grain (e.g. breakfast cereal) serial: adjective from the noun <i>series</i> – a succession of things one after the other</p> <p>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 eligible: suitable to be chosen or elected illegible: not legible (i.e. unreadable)</p> <p>eliminate: get rid of/exclude illuminate: light up</p> <p>farther: further father: a male parent</p> <p>guessed: past tense of the verb <i>guess</i> guest: visitor</p> <p>heard: past tense of the verb <i>hear</i> herd: a group of animals</p> <p>led: past tense of the verb <i>lead</i> lead: present tense of that verb, or else the metal which is very heavy (<i>as heavy as lead</i>) morning: before noon mourning: grieving for someone who has died</p> <p>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>)</p> <p>precede: go in front of or before proceed: go on</p> <p>principal: adjective – most important (e.g. <i>principal ballerina</i>) noun – important person (e.g. <i>principal of a college</i>)</p>



	<p>descent: the act of descending (going down) 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>disinterested: not having a personal stake in the matter (a World Cup referee must be disinterested – i.e. must not be from one of the countries playing in the match) uninterested: not interested, bored (a referee should be interested, not uninterested, in football)</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>) draught: a current of air</p>	<p>principle: basic truth or belief profit: money that is made in selling things prophet: someone who foretells the future</p> <p>stationary: not moving stationery: paper, envelopes etc.</p> <p>steal: take something that does not belong to you steel: metal</p> <p>wary: cautious weary: tired</p> <p>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>
--	--	--