

Spelling – work for years 3 and 4

Revision of work from years 1 and 2

Pay special attention to the rules for adding suffixes.

New work for years 3 and 4

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) |
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| 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 |
| The /ɪ/ sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words | These words should be learnt as needed. | myth, gym, Egypt, pyramid, mystery |
| The /ʌ/ sound spelt ou | These words should be learnt as needed. | young, touch, double, trouble, country |
| 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>dis-: disappoint, disagree, disobey</p> <p>mis-: misbehave, mislead, misspell (mis + spell)</p> <p>in-: inactive, incorrect</p> |

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| | <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>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>illegal, illegible</p> <p>immature, immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect</p> <p>irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible</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> |
| The suffix -ation | The suffix -ation is added to verbs to form nouns. The rules already learnt still apply. | information, adoration, sensation, preparation, admiration |
| 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> | sadly, completely, usually (usual + ly), finally (final + ly), comically (comical + ly) |

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| | <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, duly, wholly</i>.</p> | <p>happily, angrily</p> <p>gently, simply, humbly, nobly</p> <p>basically, frantically, dramatically</p> |
| 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> |
| Endings which sound like /ʒən/ | <p>If the ending sounds like /ʒən/, it is spelt as –sion.</p> | <p>division, invasion, confusion, decision, collision, television</p> |
| 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> |

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| 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> |
| Words with the /k/ sound spelt ch (Greek in origin) | | scheme, chorus, chemist, echo, character |
| Words with the /ʃ/ sound spelt ch (mostly French in origin) | | chef, chalet, machine, brochure |
| Words ending with the /g/ sound spelt –gue and the /k/ sound spelt –que (French in origin) | | league, tongue, antique, unique |
| 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 |
| Words with the /eɪ/ sound spelt ei, eigh, | | vein, weigh, eight, neighbour, they, obey |

| Statutory requirements |
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| or ey |

| Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) |
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| Statutory requirements |
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| Possessive apostrophe with plural words |
| Homophones and near-homophones |

| Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) |
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| 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) |
| | 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 |