

Spelling Progression in the National Curriculum



Focus Area	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3/4	Year 5/6
Phonics	The sounds /f/, /l/, /s/, /z/ and /k/ spelt ff, ll, ss, zz and ck The /ŋ/ sound spelt n before k (bank, think) Division of words into syllables The /v/ sound at the end of words (have, live, give) ai, oi, ay, oy, a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e, ar, ee, ea (sea), ea (bread), er (her), ir, ur, oo (food), oo (book), oa, oe, ou (out), ow (now), ow (snow), ue (blue), ew (few), ie (lie), ie (chief), igh, or, ore, aw, au, air, ear, are, tch Words ending -y (happy) New consonant spellings ph and wh Using k for the /k/ sound (Kent, skin)	The /dʒ/ sound spelt as ge and dge at the end of words, and sometimes spelt as g elsewhere in words before e, i and y The /s/ sound spelt c before e, i and y (race, cell, city) The /n/ sound spelt kn and (less often) gn at the beginning of words (knock, gnaw) The /r/ sound spelt wr at the beginning of words (write, wrong) The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt: -le at the end of words, (table, apple) -el at the end of words (tunnel, squirrel) -al at the end of words (metal, pedal) Words ending -il (pencil, fossil) The /aɪ/ sound spelt -y at the end of words (cry, fly, dry) The /aɪ/ sound spelt a before I and II (all) The /n/ sound spelt o (other, mother) The /i:/ sound spelt -ey (key, donkey) The /b/ sound spelt a after w and qu (want, watch) The /3:/sound spelt or after w (word, work) The /3:/sound spelt a after w (war, warm) The /3/sound spelt s (television, usual)	The /I/ sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words (myth, gym) The /ʌ/sound spelt ou (young, touch) Words with the /k/ sound spelt ch (scheme, chorus, chemist, echo, character) Words with the /ʃ/ sound spelt ch (chef/machine) Words ending with the /g/ sound spelt –gue and the /k/ sound spelt –que (league, tongue, antique, unique) Words with the /s/ sound spelt sc (science, scene, fascinate) Words with the /eɪ/ sound spelt ei, eigh, or ey (vein, weigh, eight)	Words with the /i:/ sound spelt ei after c (deceive, receive, ceiling) Words containing the letter-string ough (ought, rough, cough, though, through, thorough, plough) Words with 'silent' letters (i.e. letters whose presence cannot be predicted from the pronunciation of the word) (doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight)

Collated by Julie Sargent, English Consultant



Homophones		Homophones and near- homophones Example words (non-statutory): there/their/they're, here/hear, quite/quiet, see/sea, bare/bear, one/won, sun/son, to/too/two, be/bee, blue/blew, night/knight	Homophones and near- homophones Example words (non-statutory): accept/except, 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	Homophones and other words that are often confused <i>Example words (non-statutory):</i> <i>advice/advise, device/devise,</i> <i>licence/license, practice/practise,</i> <i>prophecy/prophesy,</i> <i>farther/further, guessed/guest,</i> <i>heard/herd, led/lead,</i> <i>morning/mourning, past/passed,</i> <i>precede/proceed,</i> <i>principal/principle, profit/prophet,</i> <i>stationary/stationery, steal/steel,</i> <i>wary/weary, who's/whose</i>
Prefixes	Adding the prefix un-		More prefixes dis-, mis-, in-, re-, sub-, inter-, super-, anti-, auto-	
Suffixes / endings	Adding s and es to words (plural of nouns and the third person singular of verbs) Adding the endings –ing, –ed and – er to verbs where no change is needed to the root word Adding –er and –est to adjectives where no change is needed to the root word	Adding -es to nouns and verbs ending in -y Adding -ed, -ing, -er and -est to a root word ending in -y with a consonant before it Adding the endings -ing, -ed, -er, -est and -y to words ending in -e with a consonant before it Adding -ing, -ed, -er, -est and -y to words of one syllable ending in a single consonant letter after a single vowel letter The suffixes -ment, -ness, -ful, - less and -ly Words ending in -tion	Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable Words with endings sounding like /ʒə/ or /tʃə/ - sure, -ture Endings which sound like /ʒən/ - sion Endings which sound like /ʃən/, spelt –tion, –sion, –ssion, –cian The suffix –ation The suffix –ly The suffix –ous	Endings which sound like /ʃəs/ spelt –cious or –tious Endings which sound like /ʃəl/ -cial -tial Words ending in –ant, –ance/– ancy, –ent, –ence/–ency Words ending in –able and –ible Words ending in –ably and –ibly Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in – fer
Other	Compound words Days of the week	Contractions The possessive apostrophe (singular nouns)	Possessive apostrophe with plural words	Use of the hyphen



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	COGGES			
	Common exception words.	Common exception words.	These words are statutory:	These words are statutory:
	Example words (non-statutory):	Example words (non-statutory):	accident(ally), actual(ly), address,	accommodate, accompany,
	the, a, do, to, today, of, said, says,	Door, floor, poor, because, find,	answer, appear, arrive, believe,	according, achieve, aggressive,
	are, were, was, is, his, has, I, you,	kind, mind, behind, child, children,	bicycle, breath, breathe, build,	amateur, ancient, apparent,
	your, they, be, he, me, she, we, no,	wild, climb, most, only, both, old,	busy/business, calendar, caught,	appreciate, attached, available,
	go, so, by, my, here, there, where,	cold, gold, hold, told, every,	centre, century, certain, circle,	average, award, bargain, bruise,
	love, come, some, one, once, ask,	everybody, even, great, break,	complete, consider, continue,	category, cemetery, committee,
	friend, school, put, push, pull, full,	steak, pretty, beautiful, after, fast,	decide, describe, different,	communicate, community,
	house, our – and/or others,	last, past, father, class, grass, pass,	difficult, disappear, early, earth,	competition, conscience,
	according to the programme used	plant, path, bath, hour, move,	eight/eighth, enough, exercise,	conscious, controversy,
		prove, improve, sure, sugar, eye,	experience, experiment, extreme,	convenience, correspond, criticise,
		could, should, would, who, whole,	famous, favourite, February,	curiosity, definite, desperate,
		any, many, clothes, busy, people,	forwards(s), fruit, grammar, group	determined, develop, dictionary,
		water, again, half, money, Mr, Mrs,	guard, guide, heard, heart, height,	disastrous, embarrass,
st		parents, Christmas our – and/or	history, imagine, increase,	environment, equip (-ped, -ment),
Word List		others, according to the	important, interest, island,	especially, exaggerate, excellent,
<u>r</u> d		programme used	knowledge, learn, length, library,	existence, explanation, familiar,
Ň			material, medicine, mention,	foreign, forty, frequently,
-			minute, natural, naughty, notice,	government, guarantee, harass,
			occasion(ally), often opposite,	hindrance, identify, immediate(ly),
			ordinary, particular, peculiar,	individual, interfere, interrupt,
			perhaps, popular, position,	language, leisure, lightning,
			possession(ion), possible, potatoes,	marvellous, mischievous, muscle,
			pressure, probably, promise,	necessary, neighbour, nuisance,
			purpose, quarter, question, recent,	occupy, occur, opportunity,
			regular, reign, remember,	parliament, persuade, physical,
			sentence, separate, special,	prejudice, privilege, profession,
			straight, strange, strength,	programme, pronunciation, queue,
			suppose, surprise, therefore,	recognise, recommend, relevant,
			though/although, thought,	restaurant, rhyme, rhythm,
			through, various, weight,	sacrifice, secretary, shoulder,
			woman/women	signature, sincere(ly), soldier,
				stomach, sufficient, suggest,
				symbol, system, temperature,
				thorough, twelfth, variety,
				vegetable, vehicle, yacht