

## 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)
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 <b>in-</b> below.</p> <p>Like <b>un-</b>, the prefixes <b>dis-</b> and <b>mis-</b> have negative meanings.</p> <p>The prefix <b>in-</b> can mean both 'not' and 'in'/'into'. In the words given here it means 'not'.</p>	<p><b>dis-</b>: disappoint, disagree, disobey</p> <p><b>mis-</b>: misbehave, mislead, misspell (mis + spell)</p> <p><b>in-</b>: inactive, incorrect</p>

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	<p>Before a root word starting with <b>l</b>, <b>in-</b> becomes <b>il-</b>.</p> <p>Before a root word starting with <b>m</b> or <b>p</b>, <b>in-</b> becomes <b>im-</b>.</p> <p>Before a root word starting with <b>r</b>, <b>in-</b> becomes <b>ir-</b>.</p> <p><b>re-</b> means ‘again’ or ‘back’.</p> <p><b>sub-</b> means ‘under’.</p> <p><b>inter-</b> means ‘between’ or ‘among’.</p> <p><b>super-</b> means ‘above’.</p> <p><b>anti-</b> means ‘against’.</p> <p><b>auto-</b> means ‘self’ or ‘own’.</p>	<p>illegal, illegible</p> <p>immature, immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect</p> <p>irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible</p> <p><b>re-</b>: redo, refresh, return, reappear, redecorate</p> <p><b>sub-</b>: subdivide, subheading, submarine, submerge</p> <p><b>inter-</b>: interact, intercity, international, interrelated (inter + related)</p> <p><b>super-</b>: supermarket, superman, superstar</p> <p><b>anti-</b>: antiseptic, anti-clockwise, antisocial</p> <p><b>auto-</b>: autobiography, autograph</p>
The suffix <b>-ation</b>	The suffix <b>-ation</b> is added to verbs to form nouns. The rules already learnt still apply.	information, adoration, sensation, preparation, admiration
The suffix <b>-ly</b>	<p>The suffix <b>-ly</b> is added to an adjective to form an adverb. The rules already learnt still apply.</p> <p>The suffix <b>-ly</b> 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><b>Exceptions:</b></p> <p>(1) If the root word ends in –y with a consonant letter before it, the <b>y</b> is changed to <b>i</b>, but only if the root word has more than one syllable.</p> <p>(2) If the root word ends with <b>–le</b>, the <b>–le</b> is changed to <b>–ly</b>.</p> <p>(3) If the root word ends with <b>–ic</b>, <b>–ally</b> is added rather than just <b>–ly</b>, 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 <b>–sure</b>.</p> <p>The ending sounding like /tʃə/ is often spelt <b>–ture</b>, but check that the word is not a root word ending in <b>(t)ch</b> with an <b>er</b> 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 <b>–sion</b>.</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><b>–our</b> is changed to <b>–or</b> before <b>–ous</b> 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 <b>–ous</b> ending, it is usually spelt as <b>i</b>, but a few words have <b>e</b>.</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>

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
Endings which sound like /ʃən/, spelt –tion, –sion, –ssion, –cian	<p>Strictly speaking, the suffixes are –<b>ion</b> and –<b>ian</b>. Clues about whether to put <b>t</b>, <b>s</b>, <b>ss</b> or <b>c</b> before these suffixes often come from the last letter or letters of the root word.</p> <p>–<b>tion</b> is the most common spelling. It is used if the root word ends in <b>t</b> or <b>te</b>.</p> <p>–<b>ssion</b> is used if the root word ends in <b>ss</b> or –<b>mit</b>.</p> <p>–<b>sion</b> is used if the root word ends in <b>d</b> or <b>se</b>.</p> <p><b>Exceptions:</b> <i>attend – attention, intend – intention.</i></p> <p>–<b>cian</b> is used if the root word ends in <b>c</b> or <b>cs</b>.</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 <b>c</b> and the <b>k</b> as two sounds rather than one – /s/ /k/.	science, scene, discipline, fascinate, crescent
Words with the /eɪ/ sound spelt ei, eigh, or ey		vein, weigh, eight, neighbour, they, obey

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Possessive apostrophe with plural words	The apostrophe is placed after the plural form of the word; <b>–s</b> is not added if the plural already ends in <b>–s</b> , but <i>is</i> added if the plural does not end in <b>–s</b> (i.e. is an irregular plural – e.g. <i>children’s</i> ).	girls’, boys’, babies’, children’s, men’s, mice’s <b>(Note:</b> singular proper nouns ending in an s use the ‘s suffix e.g. Cyprus’s population)
Homophones and near-homophones		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