

Progression in spelling in the national curriculum

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

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

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<p>Word list</p>	<p>Common exception words. Example words (non-statutory): <i>the, a, do, to, today, of, said, says, are, were, was, is, his, has, I, you, your, they, be, he, me, she, we, no, go, so, by, my, here, there, where, love, come, some, one, once, ask, friend, school, put, push, pull, full, house, our – and/or others, according to the programme used</i></p>	<p>Common exception words. Example words (non-statutory): <i>Door, floor, poor, because, find, kind, mind, behind, child, children, wild, climb, most, only, both, old, cold, gold, hold, told, every, everybody, even, great, break, steak, pretty, beautiful, after, fast, last, past, father, class, grass, pass, plant, path, bath, hour, move, prove, improve, sure, sugar, eye, could, should, would, who, whole, any, many, clothes, busy, people, water, again, half, money, Mr, Mrs, parents, Christmas our – and/or others, according to the programme used</i></p>	<p>These words are statutory: accident(ally), actual(ly), address, answer, appear, arrive, 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, forwards(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, possession(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</p>	<p>These words are statutory: accommodate, accompany, according, achieve, aggressive, amateur, ancient, apparent, appreciate, attached, available, average, award, bargain, bruise, category, cemetery, committee, communicate, community, competition, conscience, conscious, controversy, convenience, correspond, criticise, curiosity, definite, desperate, determined, develop, dictionary, disastrous, embarrass, environment, equip (-ped, -ment), especially, exaggerate, excellent, existence, explanation, familiar, foreign, forty, frequently, government, guarantee, harass, hindrance, identify, immediate(ly), 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, sincere(ly), soldier, stomach, sufficient, suggest, symbol, system, temperature, thorough, twelfth, variety, vegetable, vehicle, yacht</p>