

National Curriculum
Planning Document



Y5/6
Spelling Appendix

Spelling – years 5 and 6

Revise work done in previous years

New work for years 5 and 6

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
Endings which sound like /∫əs/ spelt –cious or – tious	Not many common words end like this. If the root word ends in -ce, the /ʃ/ sound is usually spelt as c - e.g. vice - vicious, grace - gracious, space - spacious, malice - malicious. Exception: anxious.	vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious ambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious
Endings which sound like /∫əl/	 -cial is common after a vowel letter and -tial after a consonant letter, but there are some exceptions. Exceptions: initial, financial, commercial, provincial (the spelling of the last three is clearly related to finance, commerce and province). 	official, special, artificial, partial, confidential, essential
Words ending in – ant, –ance/–ancy, –ent, –ence/–ency	Use –ant and –ance/–ancy if there is a related word with a /æ/ or /eI/ sound in the right position; –ation endings are often a clue.	observant, observance, (observation), expectant (expectation), hesitant, hesitancy (hesitation), tolerant, tolerance (toleration), substance (substantial)
	Use -ent and -ence/-ency after soft c (/s/ sound), soft g (/dʒ/ sound) and qu , or if there is a related word with a clear /ɛ/ sound in the right position.	innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, confident, confidence (confidential)
	There are many words, however, where the above guidance does not help. These words just have to be learnt.	assistant, assistance, obedient, obedience, independent, independence
Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
Words ending in – able and –ible	The -able/-ably endings are far more common than the -ible/-ibly endings. As with -ant and -ance/-ancy, the -able ending is used if there is a related word ending in -ation.	adorable/adorably (adoration), applicable/applicably (application), considerable/considerably

Statutory	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words
requirements		(non-statutory)
Words ending in –		(consideration),
ably and		tolerable/tolerably (toleration)
–ibly		changeable, noticeable, forcible,
	If the -able ending is added to a word ending	legible
	in –ce or –ge , the e after the c or g must be	
	kept as those letters would otherwise have	
	their 'hard' sounds (as in cap and gap) before	
	the a of the –able ending.	
	The -able ending is usually but not always	dependable, comfortable,
	used if a complete root word can be heard	understandable, reasonable,
	before it, even if there is no related word	enjoyable, reliable
	ending in -ation . The first five examples	
	opposite are obvious; in <i>reliable</i> , the	
	complete word <i>rely</i> is heard, but the y	
	changes to i in accordance with the rule.	
	The -ible ending is common if a complete	possible/possibly,
	root word can't be heard before it but it also	horrible/horribly,
	sometimes occurs when a complete word can	terrible/terribly, visible/visibly,
	be heard (e.g. sensible).	incredible/incredibly,
		sensible/sensibly
Adding suffixes	The r is doubled if the –fer is still stressed	referring, referred, referral,
beginning with	when the ending is added.	preferring, preferred,
vowel letters to		transferring, transferred
words ending in –	The r is not doubled if the -fer is no longer	reference, referee, preference,
fer	stressed.	transference
Use of the hyphen	Hyphens can be used to join a prefix to a root	co-ordinate, re-enter,
ose of the hyphen	word, especially if the prefix ends in a vowel	co-operate, co-own
	letter and the root word also begins with one.	co operate, to own
	letter and the root word also begins with one.	

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
Words with the /i:/ sound spelt ei after c	The 'i before e except after c' rule applies to words where the sound spelt by ei is /i:/. Exceptions: protein, caffeine, seize (and either and neither if pronounced with an initial /i:/ sound).	deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling
Words containing the letter-string ough	ough is one of the trickiest spellings in English – it can be used to spell a number of different sounds.	ought, bought, thought, nought, brought, fought rough, tough, enough cough

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
		though, although, dough
		through
		thorough, borough
		plough, bough
Words with 'silent' letters (i.e. letters whose presence cannot be predicted from the pronunciation of the word)	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 gh used to represent the sound that 'ch' now represents in the Scottish word <i>loch</i> .	doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight

Statutory requirements

Homophones and other words that are often confused

Rules and guidance (non-statutory)

In the pairs of words opposite, nouns end **–ce** and verbs end **–se**. *Advice* and *advise* provide a useful clue as the word *advise* (verb) is pronounced with a /z/ sound – which could not be spelt **c**.

More examples:

aisle: a gangway between seats (in a church,

train, plane). isle: an island.

aloud: out loud. allowed: permitted.

affect: usually a verb (e.g. The weather may

affect our plans).

effect: usually a noun (e.g. It may have an effect on our plans). If a verb, it means 'bring about' (e.g. He will effect changes in the running of the business).

altar: a table-like piece of furniture in a

church.

alter: to change.

ascent: the act of ascending (going up).

assent: to agree/agreement (verb and noun).

bridal: to do with a bride at a wedding. bridle: reins etc. for controlling a horse.

cereal: made from grain (e.g. breakfast

cereal).

serial: adjective from the noun *series* – a succession of things one after the other.

compliment: to make nice remarks about someone (verb) or the remark that is made (noun).

complement: related to the word *complete* – to make something complete or more complete (e.g. *her scarf complemented her outfit*).

Example words (non-statutory)

advice/advise device/devise licence/license practice/practise prophecy/prophesy

farther: further

father: a male parent

guessed: past tense of the verb

quess

guest: visitor

heard: past tense of the verb *hear*

herd: a group of animals

led: past tense of the verb *lead* lead: present tense of that verb, or else the metal which is very heavy

(as heavy as lead)

morning: before noon

mourning: grieving for someone

who has died

past: noun or adjective referring to a previous time (e.g. *In the past*) or preposition or adverb showing place (e.g. *he walked past me*) passed: past tense of the verb 'pass' (e.g. *I passed him in the road*)

precede: go in front of or before

proceed: go on

Statutory requirements

Homophones and other words that are often confused (continued)

Rules and guidance (non-statutory)

descent: the act of descending (going down). dissent: to disagree/disagreement (verb and noun).

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.

draft: noun – a first attempt at writing something; verb – to make the first attempt; also, to draw in someone (e.g. to draft in extra help)

draught: a current of air.

Example words (non-statutory)

principal: adjective – most important (e.g. *principal ballerina*) noun – important person (e.g. *principal of a college*)

principle: basic truth or belief profit: money that is made in

selling things

prophet: someone who foretells

the future

stationary: not moving

stationery: paper, envelopes etc.

steal: take something that does not

belong to you steel: metal wary: cautious weary: tired

who's: contraction of who is or

who has

whose: belonging to someone (e.g.

Whose jacket is that?)

Word list - years 5 and 6

accommodate

accompany

according achieve

aggressive

amateur ancient

apparent

appreciate

attached available

average

awkward

bargain

bruise

category

cemetery

committee

communicate

community

competition

conscience*

conscious*

controversy

convenience

correspond

criticise (critic + ise)

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

identity

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

54111010111

suggest

symbol system

temperature

thorough

twelfth

variety

vegetable

vehicle

yacht

Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Teachers should continue to emphasis to pupils the relationships between sounds and letters, even when the relationships are unusual. Once root words are learnt in this way, longer words can be spelt correctly if the rules and guidance for adding prefixes and suffixes are also known. Many of the words in the list above can be used for practice in adding suffixes.

Understanding the history of words and relationships between them can also help with spelling.

Examples:

- Conscience and conscious are related to science: conscience is simply science with the prefix con- added. These words come from the Latin word scio meaning I know.
- The word desperate, meaning 'without hope', is often pronounced in English as desp'rate, but the -sper- part comes from the Latin spero, meaning 'I hope', in which the e was clearly sounded.
- Familiar is related to family, so the /ə/ sound in the first syllable of familiar is spelt as **a**.