

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 /ʃəs/ 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. <i>vice</i> – <i>vicious</i> , <i>grace</i> – <i>gracious</i> , <i>space</i> – <i>spacious</i> , <i>malice</i> – <i>malicious</i> . Exception: <i>anxious</i> . | vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious, ambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious |
| Endings which sound like /ʃəl/ | –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 <i>finance</i> , <i>commerce</i> and <i>province</i>). | 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 /eɪ/ sound in the right position; –ation endings are often a clue. 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. There are many words, however, where the above guidance does not help. These words just have to be learnt. | observant, observance, (observ <u>a</u> tion), expectant (expect <u>a</u> tion), hesitant, hesitancy (hesit <u>a</u> tion), tolerant, tolerance (toler <u>a</u> tion), substance (subst <u>a</u> ntial) innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, confident, confidence (confid <u>e</u> ntial) assistant, assistance, obedient, obedience, independent, independ <u>e</u> nce |

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Words ending in –able and –ible</p> <p>Words ending in –ably and –ibly</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>If the –able ending is added to a word ending 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 <i>cap</i> and <i>gap</i>) before the a of the –able ending.</p> <p>The –able ending is usually but not always used if a complete root word can be heard before it, even if there is no related word 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.</p> <p>The –ible ending is common if a complete root word can’t be heard before it but it also sometimes occurs when a complete word <i>can</i> be heard (e.g. <i>sensible</i>).</p> | <p>adorable/adorably (adoration), applicable/applicably (application), considerable/considerably (consideration), tolerable/tolerably (toleration)</p> <p>changeable, noticeable, forcible, legible</p> <p>dependable, comfortable, understandable, reasonable, enjoyable, reliable</p> <p>possible/possibly, horrible/horribly, terrible/terribly, visible/visibly, incredible/incredibly, sensible/sensibly</p> |
| <p>Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in –fer</p> | <p>The r is doubled if the –fer is still stressed when the ending is added.</p> <p>The r is not doubled if the –fer is no longer stressed.</p> | <p>referring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, transferring, transferred</p> <p>reference, referee, preference, transference</p> |
| <p>Use of the hyphen</p> | <p>Hyphens can be used to join a prefix to a root word, especially if the prefix ends in a vowel letter and the root word also begins with one.</p> | <p>co-ordinate, re-enter, co-operate, co-own</p> |

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) |
|--|---|---|
| Words with the /i:/ sound spelt ei after c | <p>The 'i before e except after c' rule applies to words where the sound spelt by ei is /i:/.</p> <p>Exceptions: <i>protein, caffeine, seize</i> (and <i>either</i> and <i>neither</i> if pronounced with an initial /i:/ sound).</p> | deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling |
| Words containing the letter-string ough | <p>ough is one of the trickiest spellings in English – it can be used to spell a number of different sounds.</p> | <p>ought, bought, thought, nought, brought, fought</p> <p>rough, tough, enough</p> <p>cough</p> <p>though, although, dough</p> <p>through</p> <p>thorough, borough</p> <p>plough, bough</p> |
| Words with 'silent' letters (i.e. letters whose presence cannot be predicted from the pronunciation of the word) | <p>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>.</p> | doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight |

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) |
|--|---|---|
| Homophones and other words that are often confused | <p>In the pairs of words opposite, nouns end –ce and verbs end –se. <i>Advice</i> and <i>advise</i> provide a useful clue as the word <i>advise</i> (verb) is pronounced with a /z/ sound – which could not be spelt c.</p> <p><u>More examples:</u></p> <p>aisle: a gangway between seats (in a church, train, plane). isle: an island. aloud: out loud. allowed: permitted. affect: usually a verb (e.g. <i>The weather may affect our plans</i>). effect: usually a noun (e.g. <i>It may have an effect on our plans</i>). If a verb, it means ‘bring about’ (e.g. <i>He will effect changes in the running of the business</i>). 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 <i>series</i> – 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 <i>complete</i> – to make something complete or more complete (e.g. <i>her scarf complemented her outfit</i>).</p> | <p>advice/advise device/devise licence/license practice/practise prophecy/prophecy</p> <p>farther: further father: a male parent guessed: past tense of the verb <i>guess</i> guest: visitor heard: past tense of the verb <i>hear</i> herd: a group of animals led: past tense of the verb <i>lead</i> lead: present tense of that verb, or else the metal which is very heavy (<i>as heavy as lead</i>) morning: before noon mourning: grieving for someone who has died past: noun or adjective referring to a previous time (e.g. <i>In the past</i>) or preposition or adverb showing place (e.g. <i>he walked past me</i>) passed: past tense of the verb ‘pass’ (e.g. <i>I passed him in the road</i>) precede: go in front of or before proceed: go on</p> |

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| Homophones and other words that are often confused (continued) | <p>descent: the act of descending (going down).</p> <p>dissent: to disagree/disagreement (verb and noun).</p> <p>desert: as a noun – a barren place (stress on first syllable); as a verb – to abandon (stress on second syllable)</p> <p>dessert: (stress on second syllable) a sweet course after the main course of a meal.</p> <p>draft: noun – a first attempt at writing something; verb – to make the first attempt; also, to draw in someone (e.g. <i>to draft in extra help</i>)</p> <p>draught: a current of air.</p> | <p>principal: adjective – most important (e.g. <i>principal ballerina</i>) noun – important person (e.g. <i>principal of a college</i>)</p> <p>principle: basic truth or belief</p> <p>profit: money that is made in selling things</p> <p>prophet: someone who foretells the future</p> <p>stationary: not moving</p> <p>stationery: paper, envelopes etc.</p> <p>steal: take something that does not belong to you</p> <p>steel: metal</p> <p>wary: cautious</p> <p>weary: tired</p> <p>who's: contraction of <i>who is</i> or <i>who has</i></p> <p>whose: belonging to someone (e.g. <i>Whose jacket is that?</i>)</p> |

Word list – years 5 and 6

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| accommodate | embarrass | persuade |
| accompany | environment | physical |
| according | equip (–ped, –ment) | prejudice |
| achieve | especially | privilege |
| aggressive | exaggerate | profession |
| amateur | excellent | programme |
| ancient | existence | pronunciation |
| apparent | explanation | queue |
| appreciate | familiar | recognise |
| attached | foreign | recommend |
| available | forty | relevant |
| average | frequently | restaurant |
| awkward | government | rhyme |
| bargain | guarantee | rhythm |
| bruise | harass | sacrifice |
| category | hindrance | secretary |
| cemetery | identity | shoulder |
| committee | immediate(ly) | signature |
| communicate | individual | sincere(ly) |
| community | interfere | soldier |
| competition | interrupt | stomach |
| conscience* | language | sufficient |
| conscious* | leisure | suggest |
| controversy | lightning | symbol |
| convenience | marvellous | system |
| correspond | mischievous | temperature |
| criticise (critic + ise) | muscle | thorough |
| curiosity | necessary | twelfth |
| definite | neighbour | variety |
| desperate | nuisance | vegetable |
| determined | occupy | vehicle |
| develop | occur | yacht |
| dictionary | opportunity | |
| disastrous | parliament | |