

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 3/4 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	Most prefixes are added to the beginning of root words without any changes in spelling, but see in- below. Like un- , the prefixes dis- and mis- have negative meanings. The prefix in- can mean both 'not' and 'in'/'into'. In the words given here it means 'not'.	dis- : disappoint, disagree, disobey mis- : misbehave, mislead, misspell (mis + spell) in- : inactive, incorrect
Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
	Before a root word starting with l , in- becomes il . Before a root word starting with m or p , in- becomes im- .	illegal, illegible immature, immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
	Before a root word starting with r , in- becomes ir- . re- means 'again' or 'back'. sub- means 'under'. inter- means 'between' or 'among'. super- means 'above'. anti- means 'against'. auto- means 'self' or 'own'. The suffix -ation is added to verbs to form nouns. The rules already learnt still apply. The suffix -ly is added to an adjective to form an adverb. The rules already learnt still apply. The suffix -ly starts with a consonant letter, so it is added straight on to most root words.	irregular , irrelevant, irresponsible re- : redo, refresh, return, reappear, redecorate sub- : subdivide, subheading, submarine, submerge inter- : interact, intercity, international, interrelated (inter + related) super- : supermarket, superman, superstar anti- : antiseptic, anticlockwise, antisocial auto- : autobiography, autograph information, adoration, sensation, preparation, admiration sadly, completely, usually (usual + ly), finally (final + ly), comically (comical + ly)
The suffix -ation		
The suffix -ly		

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
	Exceptions: (1) If the root word ends in -y with a consonant letter before it, the y is changed to i , but only if the root word has more than one syllable. (2) If the root word ends with -le , the -le is changed to -ly . (3/4) If the root word ends with -ic , -ally is added rather than just -ly , except in the word <i>publicly</i> .	happily, angrily gently, simply, humbly, nobly basically, frantically, dramatically
Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
Words with endings sounding like /ʒə/ or /tʃə/	(4) The words <i>truly, duly, wholly</i> . The ending sounding like /ʒə/ is always spelt <i>-sure</i> . The ending sounding like /tʃə/ is often spelt <i>-ture</i> , but check that the word is not a root word ending in (t)ch with an er ending – e.g. <i>teacher, catcher, richer, stretcher</i> .	measure, treasure, pleasure, enclosure, creature, furniture, picture, nature, adventure
Endings which sound like /ʒən/	If the ending sounds like /ʒən/, it is spelt as <i>-sion</i> .	division, invasion, confusion, decision, collision, television
The suffix <i>-ous</i>	Sometimes the root word is obvious and the usual rules apply for adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters. Sometimes there is no obvious root word. <i>-our</i> is changed to <i>-or</i> before <i>-ous</i> is added. A final 'e' of the root word must be kept if the /dʒ/ sound of 'g' is to be kept. If there is an /i:/ sound before the <i>-ous</i> ending, it is usually spelt as <i>i</i> , but a few words have <i>e</i> .	poisonous, dangerous, mountalnous, famous, various, tremendous, enormous, jealous, humorous, glamorous, vigorous, courageous, outrageous, serious, obvlous, curious, hideous, spontaneous, courteous

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
Endings which sound like /ʃən/, spelt <i>-tion, -sion, -ssion, -cian</i>	Strictly speaking, the suffixes are <i>-ion</i> and <i>-lan</i> . Clues about whether to put <i>t, s, ss</i> or <i>c</i> before these suffixes often come from the last letter or letters of the root word. <i>-tion</i> is the most common spelling. It is used if the root word ends in t or te . <i>-sion</i> is used if the root word ends in ss or -mit . <i>-sion</i> is used if the root word ends in d or se . Exceptions: <i>attend – attention, intend – intention</i> . <i>-cian</i> is used if the root word ends in c or cs .	invention, injection, action, hesitation, completion, expression, discussion, confession, permission, admission, expansion, extension, comprehension, tension, musician, electrician, magician, politician, mathematician, scheme, chorus, chemist, echo, character, chef, chalet, machine, brochure, league, tongue, antique, unique, science, scene, discipline, fascinate, crescent, vein, weigh, eight, neighbour, they, obey
Words with the /k/ sound spelt ch (Greek in origin)		
Words with the /ʃ/ sound spelt ch (mostly French in origin)		
Words ending with the /g/ sound spelt <i>-gue</i> and the /k/ sound spelt <i>-que</i> (French in origin)		
Words with the /s/ sound spelt sc (Latin in origin)	In the Latin words from which these words come, the Romans probably pronounced the c and the k as two sounds rather than one – /s/ /k/.	
Words with the /ei/ sound spelt ei, eight, or ey		

Statutory requirements
Possessive apostrophe with plural words

Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
The apostrophe is placed after the plural form of the word: <i>-s</i> is not added if the plural already ends in <i>-s</i> , but <i>-is</i> added if the plural does not end in <i>-s</i> (i.e. is an irregular plural – e.g.	girls', boys', babies', children's, men's, mice's (Note: singular proper nouns ending in an s use the 's suffix e.g. Cyprus's

Word list – years 3 and 4

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (not-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
Homophones and near-homophones	children's).	population) accept/except, affect/effect, bail/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

accident(ally)	forward(s)	potatoes
actual(ly)	fruit	pressure
address	grammar	probably
answer	group	promise
appear	guard	purpose
arrive	guide	quarter
believe	heard	question
bicycle	heart	recent
breath	height	regular
breathe	history	reign
build	imagine	remember
busy/business	increase	sentence
calendar	important	separate
caught	interest	special
centre	island	straight
century	knowledge	strange
certain	learn	strength
circle	length	suppose
complete	library	surprise
consider	material	therefore
continue	medicine	though/although
decide	mention	thought
describe	minute	through
different	natural	various
difficult	naughty	weight
disappear	notice	woman/women
early	occasion(ally)	
earth	often	
eight/eighth	opposite	
enough	ordinary	
exercise	particular	
experience	peculiar	
experiment	perhaps	
extreme	popular	
famous	position	
favourite	possession	
February	possible	