

Spellings

Most people read words more accurately than they spell them.

The younger pupils are, the truer this is.

By the end of year 1, pupils should be able to read a large number of different words containing the Grapheme Phoneme Correspondences (GPCs) that they have learnt, whether or not they have seen these words before.

Spelling, however, is a very different matter.

Once pupils have learnt more than one way of spelling particular sounds, choosing the right letter or letters depends on their either having made a conscious effort to learn the words or having absorbed them less consciously through their reading.

Younger pupils have not had enough time to learn or absorb the accurate spelling of all the words that they may want to write.

For years 1 and 2, including almost all those listed as 'exception words', are used frequently in pupils' writing, and therefore it is worth pupils learning the correct spelling.

The 'exception words' contain GPCs which have not yet been taught as widely applicable, but this may be because they are applicable in very few ageappropriate words rather than because they are rare in English words in general.

The word-lists for years 3 & 4 and years 5 & 6 are a mixture of words pupils frequently use in their writing and those which they often misspell.

Adapted from The national curriculum in England - English Appendix 1: Spelling



Year 1 common exception words

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
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Year 2 common exception words

door floor poor because find kind mind behind child children wild climb most only both old cold	gold hold told every 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 everybody even
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Year 3 and 4

National Curriculum word list

accident(ally) actual(ly) address answer appear arrive believe bicycle breath breathe build busy/business calendar caught centre certain circle complete consider continue decide describe different difficult disappear	early earth eight/eighth enough exercise experience experiment extreme famous favourite February forward(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 possess(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
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Year 5 and 6

National Curriculum word list

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 suggest symbol system temperature thorough twelfth variety vegetable vehicle yacht
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Fun ways to practise your spellings

WENT WENT
went went

Write each of your words out two times. Write in uppercase the first time and lowercase the second time.

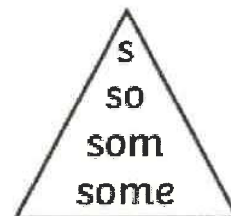
then

then

Write out your words in your neatest handwriting. Then, write them again in curly letters.



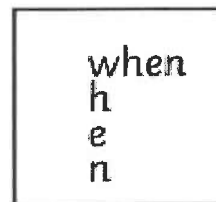
Write out your words with a pencil. Next, draw around each letter five more times using different coloured pencils.



Write each of your words inside a pyramid.

their

Write out each of your words. Then, go over the vowels in each word using a blue pencil.



Write your words across and down, sharing the same first letter.





Write each of your words in the air with your finger. Ask someone to read your words as you write.



Tell a story. Use all of your words to tell a short story. Underline each spelling word with a ruler and pencil.



Draw a big flower. Write one of your spelling words on each petal

their
rieht

Write each of your words out forwards.
Then, write them all backwards

could
should
would

Write your words in alphabetical order.

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

their
there



Write each of your words using dots.
Then, join the dots with a coloured pencil to make your word.





Type out your spellings on a computer or other device. Why not use a different font for each word?

inter
their

Ask a family member to scramble your spelling words.
Can you unscramble the words and spell them correctly?



Cut out letters from a magazine or newspaper and use them to spell out your words.

then

were

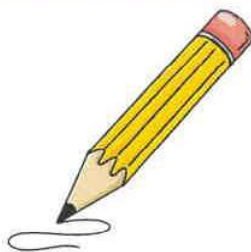
were

they

Make your own spelling dominoes and play a game with your family.



Work out what the value of your word would be using the Scrabble points.



Write your spelling words using the hand you don't normally write with?