

Lady Jane Grey KS1 and 2 National Curriculum Spelling Patterns and Rules Coverage

Year 6 Spelling Patterns and Common Exception Words

| Statutory Requirements | Spelling Rules and Guidance | Examples of the spelling rule |
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| Endings which sound like / əs/ [spelt –cious or –tious | Not many common words end like this. If the root word ends in –ce , the sound is usually spelt as c – e.g. <i>vice – vicious, grace – gracious, space – spacious, malice – malicious</i> . Exception: <i>anxious</i> . /ʃ/ | 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, 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 | observant, observance, (observation), expectant (expectation), hesitant, hesitancy |

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| | <p>or /eɪ/ sound in the right position; –ation endings are often a clue.</p> <p>Use –ent and –ence/–ency after soft c (/s/ sound), soft g sound) and qu, or if there is a related word with a clear</p> <p>ɛ sound in the right position.</p> <p>There are many words, however, where the above guidance does not help. These words just have to be learnt. /æ/ (/dʒ/ / / .</p> | <p>(hesitation), tolerant, tolerance (toleration), substance (substantial) innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, confident, confidence (confidential) assistant, assistance, obedient, obedience, independent, independence</p> |
| <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.</p> <p>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</p> | <p>adorable/adorably (adoration), applicable/applicably (application), considerable/considerably (consideration), tolerable/tolerably (toleration) changeable, noticeable, forcible, legible</p> <p>dependable, comfortable, understandable, reasonable, enjoyable, reliable</p> <p>possible/possibly, horrible/horribly, terrible/terribly, visible/visibly,</p> |

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| | <p>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. 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>incredible/incredibly, sensible/sensibly</p> |
| Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in –fer | <p>The r is doubled if the –fer is still stressed when the ending is added. The r is not doubled if the –fer is no longer stressed.</p> | <p>referring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, transferring, transferred reference, referee, preference, transference</p> |
| Use of the hyphen | <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> |
| 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>deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling</p> |

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| | Exceptions: <i>protein, caffeine, seize</i> (and <i>either</i> and <i>neither</i> if pronounced with an initial /i:/ sound). | |
| 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 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 |
| Homophones and other words that are often confused | 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: | advice/advise device/devise licence/license practice/practise prophecy/prophecy farther: further father: a male parent guessed: past tense of the verb guess guest: visitor |

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| | <p>aisle: a gangway between seats (in a church, train, plane).</p> <p>isle: an island.</p> <p>aloud: out loud.</p> <p>allowed: permitted.</p> <p>affect: usually a verb (e.g. The weather may affect our plans).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>altar: a table-like piece of furniture in a church.</p> <p>alter: to change.</p> <p>ascent: the act of ascending (going up).</p> <p>assent: to agree/agreement (verb and noun).</p> <p>bridal: to do with a bride at a wedding.</p> <p>bridle: reins etc. for controlling a horse.</p> <p>cereal: made from grain (e.g. breakfast cereal).</p> | <p>heard: past tense of the verb</p> <p>hear herd: a group of animals</p> <p>led: past tense of the verb lead</p> <p>lead: present tense of that verb, or else the metal which is very heavy (as heavy as lead)</p> <p>morning: before noon</p> <p>mourning: grieving for someone who has died</p> <p>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)</p> <p>passed: past tense of the verb 'pass' (e.g. I passed him in the road)</p> <p>precede: go in front of or before</p> <p>proceed: go on</p> <p>principal: adjective – most important (e.g. principal ballerina) noun – important person (e.g. principal of a college)</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> |
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| | <p>serial: adjective from the noun series – a succession of things one after the other.</p> <p>compliment: to make nice remarks about someone (verb) or the remark that is made (noun).</p> <p>complement: related to the word complete – to make something complete or more complete (e.g. her scarf complemented her outfit).</p> <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. to</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 who is or who has</p> <p>whose: belonging to someone (e.g. Whose jacket is that?)</p> |
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| | draft in extra help) draught: a current of air. | |
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| Common Exception Words | | |
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| communicate community competition conscience* conscious* controversy convenience correspond criticise (critic + ise) curiosity definite desperate determined develop dictionary disastrous | interfere interrupt language leisure lightning marvellous mischievous muscle necessary neighbour nuisance occupy occur opportunity parliament | signature sincere(ly) soldier stomach sufficient suggest symbol system temperature thorough twelfth variety vegetable vehicle yacht |