

Writing- Spelling - Year 5 and 6

Revise work done in previous years.		
Year 5 and 6		
Statutory Requirements	Rules/guidelines (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
Verb prefixes (negative 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.	dis- : disappoint, disagree, disobey mis- : misbehave, mislead, misspell (mis + spell)
	The prefix in- can mean both 'not' and 'in'/'into'. In the words given here it means 'not'.	in- : inactive, incorrect
	The prefix in- can mean both 'not' and 'in'/'into'. In the words given here it means 'not'.	in- : inactive, incorrect
	Before a root word starting with l , in- becomes il .	illegal, illegible
	Before a root word starting with m or p , in- becomes im- .	immature, immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect
	Before a root word starting with r , in- becomes ir- .	irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible
	re- means 'again' or 'back'.	re- : redo, refresh, return, reappear, redecorate
Endings which sound like /shus/ spelt -cious or -tious	Not many common words end like this. If the root word ends in -ce , the /shus/ sound is usually spelt as c - e.g. <i>vice - vicious, grace - gracious, space - spacious, malice - malicious.</i> Exception: anxious.	vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious ambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious
Endings which sound like /shul/	-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/ or /ai/ sound in the right position; -ation endings are often a clue. Use -ent and -ence/-ency after soft c (/s/ sound), soft g (/j/ sound) and qu , or if there is a related word with a clear /e/ 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, (observation), expectant (expectation), hesitant, hesitancy (hesitation), tolerant, tolerance (toleration), substance (substantial) innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, confident, confidence (confidential) assistant, assistance, obedient, obedience, independent, independence
Words ending in -able and -ible Words ending in -ably and -ibly	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 . 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. 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 .	adorable/adorably (adoration), applicable/applicably (application), considerable/considerably (consideration), tolerable/tolerably (toleration) changeable, noticeable, forcible, legible dependable, comfortable, understandable, reasonable, enjoyable, reliable

	<p>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>possible/possibly, horrible/horribly, terrible/terribly, visible/visibly, 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.</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>
Adding suffixes ise, en, ify, ate (to change nouns/adjectives into verbs)		<p>Deep- deepen, length-lengthen, pollen-pollinate, elastic-elasticate, medicine- medicate, apology, apologise, pure-purify, standard-standardise</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 /ee/ sound spelt ei after c	<p>The 'i before e except after c' rule applies to words where the sound spelt by ei is /ee/.</p> <p>Exceptions: <i>protein, caffeine, seize</i> (and <i>either</i> and <i>neither</i> if pronounced with an initial /ee/ sound).</p>	<p>deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling</p>
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>	<p>doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight</p>
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.</p>	<p>advice/advise device/devise licence/license practice/practise prophecy/prophesy</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>)</p>

	<p>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>). 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. <i>to draft in extra help</i>) draught: a current of air.</p>	<p>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 principal: adjective - most important (e.g. <i>principal ballerina</i>) noun - important person (e.g. <i>principal of a college</i>) 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 <i>who is</i> or <i>who has</i> whose: belonging to someone (e.g. <i>Whose jacket is that?</i>)</p>
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<p>Word list</p>	<p>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 marvelous mischievous muscle necessary neighbour nuisance occupy occur opportunity parliament persuade physical prejudice privilege profession programme pronunciation queue recognize recommend relevant restaurant rhyme rhythm sacrifice secretary shoulder signature sincere(ly) soldier stomach sufficient suggest symbol system temperature thorough twelfth variety vegetable vehicle yacht</p>
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