

Spelling Progression Guidance: through the Primary School from Year 1

This guidance closely follows the new curriculum Programme of Study for English for 2014. Teachers will need to assess children first, in order to decide what is appropriate for their pupils.

Year Group	Expected	Spelling pattern, rule or tip	Word suggestions
Year 1 Revision of Reception work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise all letters of the alphabet, and the sounds they commonly represent Revise consonant digraphs Revise vowel digraphs which have been taught Revise the process of segmenting words Revise words with adjacent consonants 		
Year 1	<p>Statutory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These vowel digraphs and trigraphs: ai, oi, ay, oy, a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e, ar, ee, ea, er, ir, ur, oo, oa, oe, ou, ow, ue, ew, ie, igh, or, ore, aw, au air, ear, are The sounds f, l, s, k spelt ff, ll, ss, zz, and ck nk -tch v phoneme at the end of words 	<p>Digraphs ai and oi are not used at the end of English words.</p> <p>ay and oy are used at the ends of words and the end of syllables</p> <p>These sounds are usually spelt with double letters if they follow a single vowel in short words. Exceptions: <i>if, pal, us, bus yes.</i></p> <p>Most English words add an e after the v</p>	<p>rain, wait, oil, join, day, play, boy, toy, made, came, these, theme, five, ride, home, those, June, rule, car, start, see tree, sea, dream, head, bread, her, term, better, under, girl, bird, turn, hurt, food, pool, book, took, boat, coat, toe, goes, now, how, blue, clue, new, few, lie, tie, chief, field, high, night, for, short, more, score, saw, draw, author, August, air, fair, dear, hear, bear, pear, bare (See POS for further suggestions.)</p> <p>off, well, miss, buzz, back</p> <p>bank, think, honk, sunk</p> <p>catch, fetch kitchen</p> <p>have, live, give</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • division of words into syllables • adding s and es, either as plural nouns or third person singular of verbs • adding -ing, -ed and -er to verbs where the root word doesn't change • adding -er and -est to adjectives where the root word doesn't change • Words ending -y • Consonant spellings ph and wh • Using k for the k sound • Prefix un • Compound words • Common exception words (tricky words / red words) 	<p>Each syllable is like a beat in the spoken word. Words of more than one syllable often have an unstressed syllable in which the vowel sound is unclear.</p> <p>If the ending sounds like 's' or 'z', it is spelt as -s. If the ending sounds like 'iz' and forms an extra beat, it is spelt as -es.</p> <p>-ing and -er always add an extra syllable, -ed sometimes does</p> <p>If the adjective ends in two consonant letters (same or different), the ending is simply added on.</p> <p>ph is unusual in short everyday words <i>e.g. fat, fill, fun</i></p> <p>un is added to the beginning of the word without any change to the root word.</p> <p>Two words joined together, spelt the same way as if on their own.</p> <p>Look at grapheme /phoneme correspondences which do/do not fit in with what has been taught so far.</p>	<p>pocket, rabbit, carrot, thunder, sunset</p> <p>cats, dogs, rocks, catches</p> <p>hunting, hunted, hunter, buzzing, buzzed, buzzer, jumping, jumped, jumper</p> <p>grander, grandest, fresher, freshest, quicker, quickest</p> <p>very, happy, party, family</p> <p>dolphin, alphabet, phonics, elephant, when, where, which, wheel, while</p> <p>Kent, sketch, kit, frisky</p> <p>unhappy, undo, unfair</p> <p>football, playground, bedroom, blackberry</p> <p>the, a, do, 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,</p>
--	--	--	--

			some, one, once, ask, friend, school, put, push, pull, full, house, our
Year 2	<p>Revision from Year 1. Phonic knowledge continues to underpin spelling, but morphology becomes important, as pupils begin to learn about root words and suffixes. Show the relationship between the meaning and spelling of words.</p> <p>Statutory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dge or ge phoneme at the ends of words • s phoneme, spelt 'c' (soft c) • n phoneme, spelt 'kn' and 'gn' • r phoneme, spelt 'wr' • l phoneme, spelt 'le' at the ends of words • l phoneme, spelt 'el' • l phoneme, spelt 'al' • Words ending 'il' • -y (long 'i' phoneme) at the ends of words 	<p>Revise previously taught GPCs, when introducing new ones. Many words will contain both.</p> <p>The letter j is never used for the 'dge' sound at the ends of English words; dge is usually used after short vowels. We usually use a g before e,i and y. We always use j before a, o and u.</p> <p>The k and g at the beginning of these words was sounded hundreds of years ago.</p> <p>Also reflects old pronunciation</p> <p>-le is the most common spelling for this sound at the ends of words. Less common than -le. Used after m,n,r,s,v,w and often s. A few nouns and several adjectives.</p> <p>The most common spelling for this sound at the ends of</p>	<p>badge, edge, bridge</p> <p>age, huge, change</p> <p>gem, giant, magic</p> <p>jacket, jar, jog, join, jump</p> <p>race, ice, cell, city, fancy</p> <p>knock, know, knee gnat, gnaw</p> <p>write, wrong, wrap, wrote</p> <p>table, apple, bottle, little</p> <p>camel, tunnel, squirrel, travel, towel, tinsel</p> <p>metal, pedal, hospital, animal final, special, critical,</p> <p>nostril, pencil, fossil</p> <p>cry, fly, dry, try, reply, July</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adding -es to nouns and verbs ending in -y • adding -ed, -ing, -er and -est to a root word ending in -y with a consonant before it. • adding -ing, -ed, -er -est and -y to words ending in -e, with a consonant before it. • adding -ing, -ed, -er, -est and -y to words of one syllable, ending in a single consonant letter after a single vowel letter. • the or phoneme, spelt a • the short u phoneme, spelt o • the phoneme made by the grapheme -ey • the phoneme (short o) spelt a, after the letters w and qu • the phoneme spelt or after w • the phoneme spelt ar after w • the rare phoneme spelt 's' in some words (see list) • suffixes -ment, -ness, 	<p>words.</p> <p>Change the y to an i before adding -es</p> <p>Change the y to an i before adding the suffix, except for -ing. The only ordinary words with 'ii' are skiing and taxiing.</p> <p>Drop the -e at the end of the root word before -ing, -ed, -er, -est, -y or any other suffix beginning with a vowel. The exception is being.</p> <p>Double the last consonant letter of the root word, to keep the vowel short. Exception: the letter x is never doubled: <i>mixing, boxer, sixes</i></p> <p>The plural of these words is formed by adding -s e.g. <i>donkeys, monkeys.</i></p> <p>a is the most common spelling for the 'short o' sound, after w and qu</p> <p>If a suffix starts with a consonant, it is</p>	<p>flies, tries, babies, carries</p> <p>copied, copier, happier, happiest, cried, replied, ...but copying, crying</p> <p>skiing, taxiing,</p> <p>hiking, hiked, hiker, nicer, nicest, shiny</p> <p>patting, humming, dropped, sadder, fattest, runny</p> <p>always, all, ball, walk, talk</p> <p>other, mother brother, nothing, Monday</p> <p>key, donkey, monkey, chimney, valley</p> <p>want, watch, wander, quantity, squash</p> <p>word, work, worm, world</p> <p>war, warm, towards</p> <p>treasure, television, usual</p> <p>enjoyment, sadness,</p>
--	---	--	--

	<p>-ful, -less and -ly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractions • Possessive apostrophe – singular nouns • -tion • Homophones and near-homophones • Common exception words (tricky words) 	<p>usually simply added on. Exceptions: 1) argument 2) Root words ending in -y, if the root has more than one syllable e.g. merriment, happiness, plentiful, penniless, happily</p> <p>In contractions, the apostrophe shows the letter/s which have been omitted e.g. can't – cannot</p> <p>When the owner is singular, the apostrophe is placed before the s.</p> <p>It is important to know the difference in meaning between homophones.</p> <p>Some words are exceptions in some accents but not in others, e.g. past, bath</p>	<p>careful, playful, hopeless, plainness, badly</p> <p>can't, didn't, hasn't, couldn't, it's, I'll</p> <p>Megan's, Ravi's, the girl's, the child's, the man's</p> <p>station, fiction, motion, national, section</p> <p>there/their/they're, here/hear, quite/quiet, see/sea, bare/bear, one/won, sun/son, to/too/two, be/bee, blue/blew, night/knight</p> <p>door, floor, poor because, find, kind, mind, behind, child, children, wild, climb, most, only, both, old, cold, gold, hold, told, every, everybody, even, 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</p>
Yrs 3 &4	<p>The new POS links Years 3 & 4 together. This guidance has split requirements into suggested yearly coverage,</p>	<p>Increasingly, pupils need to understand the role of morphology and</p>	

	which should be adapted to suit pupil ability.	etymology, and to understand the link between meaning and spelling, where relevant.	
Year 3	<p>Revision of Year 2 coverage. Most children will need to revise and consolidate these important, basic conventions, as they form part of everyday language. Homophones will need revision throughout lower KS2. Use end of KS1 teacher assessments of spelling against the POS, to identify where to begin in Year 3.</p> <p>Statutory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding suffixes beginning with vowels (to words of more than one syllable) • The short u phoneme, spelt ou • Prefixes dis, mis, in, super, anti • Suffix -ation • Suffix -ly 	<p>If the last syllable is stressed and ends with one consonant (which has one preceding vowel) the final consonant is doubled e.g. forgetting</p> <p>Add most prefixes to the root without changing the spelling.</p> <p>Like un-, the prefixes dis- and mis- have negative meanings.</p> <p>super- means above anti- means against</p> <p>-ation is added to verbs to make nouns</p> <p>-ly is added to an adjective to make an adverb As -ly starts with a consonant, usually simply add to the root word.</p> <p>Exceptions: If the root ends in -y</p>	<p>forgetting, forgotten, beginning, beginner, preferred</p> <p>young, touch, double, trouble, country</p> <p>disappoint, disagree, disobey misbehave, mislead, misspell</p> <p>supermarket, superman anti-clockwise, antiseptic</p> <p>information, adoration, sensation, preparation</p> <p>sadly, usually, finally, completely</p> <p>happily, angrily</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words with endings as in treasure Words with endings as in picture Words with endings -tion, -sion and -ssion Words with the 'ay' phoneme, spelt ei, eight or ey Possessive apostrophe with plural words (Revise apostrophe with singular owners first.) Extend known homophones or near-homophones Further contractions (not included in new POS) 	<p>(with a consonant letter before it) change the y to i. If the root ends with -le, change it to -ly.</p> <p>Always spelt -sure</p> <p>Can be confused with words like teacher or richer.</p> <p>Clues about whether to put t, s or ss before the suffix -ion often come from the last letter/s of the root word. -tion is the most common. -ssion is used if the root ends in ss or mit. -sion is used if the root ends in d or se.</p> <p>Place the apostrophe after the plural form of the word, e.g. babies' Exceptions: see Year 4</p> <p>Extend range of contractions from Year 2. See right.</p>	<p>gently, simply, humbly, nobly</p> <p>treasure, measure, pleasure, enclosure</p> <p>picture, creature, furniture, nature, adventure</p> <p>invention, injection, action, hesitation,</p> <p>tension, expansion, comprehension, expression, discussion, permission, admission</p> <p>possession permission</p> <p>extend – extension</p> <p>vein, weigh, weight, eight, neighbour, they, obey</p> <p>girls', boys', babies', donkeys'</p> <p>berry/bury, brake/break, fair/fare, grate/great, groan/grown, here/hear, heel/heal/he'll, knot/not, mail/male, main/mane, meat/meet, missed/mist, peace/piece, plain/plane/ rain/rein/reign, weather/whether, whose/who's</p> <p>haven't, won't, shouldn't, shan't, could've, would've, you'll, he'll, she'll, they'll, we'll</p>
--	--	---	---

<p>Year 4</p>	<p>Revision of Year 3 objectives throughout lower KS2. Extend and develop to Year 4 coverage below, as appropriate.</p> <p>Statutory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding suffixes beginning with vowels (to words of more than one syllable) • The short 'i' phoneme spelt y in the middle of words. • Prefixes in-, il-, im-, ir, re-sub-, inter- and auto • Suffix -ly 	<p>If the last syllable is stressed and ends with one consonant (which has one preceding vowel) the final consonant is doubled e.g. forgetting: however, the consonant is not doubled if the syllable is unstressed, e.g. gardener</p> <p>in- means both 'not' and 'in/into'. Before a root starting with l, in- becomes il.</p> <p>Before a root starting with m or p, in- becomes im-</p> <p>Before a root starting with r, in- becomes ir- re- means again or back</p> <p>sub- means under</p> <p>auto- means self or own</p> <p>Revise: the suffix -ly begins with a consonant, so usually it is added straight onto a root word. New: 3rd exception (see year 3 for others): If the root ends with</p>	<p>(Revise: beginning, forgetting)</p> <p>gardening, gardener, limiting, limited, limitation</p> <p>myth, gym, Egypt, pyramid, mystery</p> <p>incorrect, inactive</p> <p>illegal, illegible</p> <p>immature, immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect</p> <p>irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible</p> <p>redo, refresh, return, reappear, redecorate</p> <p>submarine, subheading</p> <p>autobiography, autograph, automatic</p> <p>completely, finally</p> <p>basically, frantically, dramatically</p>
---------------	--	--	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words with ending -sion (hard sound – e.g. television) Suffix -ous 	<p>-ic, then add -ally rather than just -ly, (<i>except in the word publicly.</i>)</p> <p>Sometimes the root word is obvious, e.g. poisonous.</p> <p>Sometimes there is no obvious root word e.g. tremendous.</p> <p>-our is changed to -or before adding -ous Keep the final e when using a soft g.</p> <p>If there is a short i sound before the suffix -ous, it is usually spelt with an i, but a few words have e.</p> <p>-cian is used if the root word ends in c or cs. (<i>Note how many of these words show professions.</i>)</p>	<p>division, invasion, confusion, decision, collision, television</p> <p>poisonous, dangerous, mountainous, famous, various</p> <p>tremendous, enormous, jealous</p> <p>humorous, glamorous, vigorous</p> <p>courageous, outrageous</p> <p>serious, obvious, curious</p> <p>hideous, spontaneous, courteous</p> <p>musician, electrician, magician, politician, mathematician</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words ending with -cian Words with the k phoneme, spelt ch Words with the sh phoneme, but spelt ch Words with the hard g phoneme, spelt gue Other words spelt gue Words with the k phoneme, spelt que Revise possessive apostrophe for singular and plural words. 	<p>scheme, chorus, chemist, echo, character</p> <p>chef, chalet, machine, brochure</p> <p>league, colleague, catalogue</p> <p>tongue</p> <p>French in origin.</p> <p>Revise: when the owner is singular, the apostrophe is placed before the s. Revise: when the</p>	<p>antique, unique, clique</p> <p>Sarah's, Mr Black's</p> <p>squirrels' tails;</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possessive apostrophe for irregular plural words. • Further homophones or near-homophones 	<p>owner is plural, the apostrophe is placed after the s.</p> <p>New: some owners are considered as a collective group, as if they were a single body. In this case, the apostrophe goes before the s, as with singular owners, e.g. children's. Singular proper nouns ending in an s use the 's suffix, e.g. Cyprus's</p> <p>Continue to revise homophones from Year 3</p>	<p>girls' toilet</p> <p>children's, men's, women's, firemen's, policemen's, mice's</p> <p>Cyprus's, Chris's, James's <i>(Can also be written Chris' or James' – not in POS)</i></p> <p>accept/except, affect/effect, ball/bawl, medal/meddle, scene/seen,</p>
Yrs 5 & 6	<p>The new POS links Years 5 & 6 together. This guidance has split requirements into suggested yearly coverage, which should be adapted to suit pupil ability. Some pupils in Year 5 will be able to access Year 6 work immediately.</p>		
Year 5	<p>Revise spellings from previous years. Assess children against the POS for Years 3&4 in order to ascertain starting points.</p> <p>Statutory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words ending with -cious or -tious • Words ending with -cial and -tial 	<p>If the root ends in -ce, then the -cious ending is common, e.g. <i>grace – gracious</i></p> <p>Exception: anxious</p> <p>-cial is common after a vowel, and -tial after a consonant, but there are some exceptions.</p> <p>Exceptions: initial, financial, commercial,</p>	<p>vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious, ambitious cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious</p> <p>official, special, artificial partial, confidential, essential</p> <p>initial, commercial, provincial</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words ending with -ant, -ance, -ancy, -ent, -ence, -ency 	<p>provincial</p> <p>Use -ant, -ance and -ancy if there is a related word with the long a phoneme (see <i>words in column right</i>).</p> <p>Use -ent, -ence and -ency after a soft c, soft g or qu</p> <p>Exceptions: there are many words, however, where the above guidelines don't help. These words just have to be learnt. Pronouncing the words artificially, in the way they are spelt, can help children to remember.</p>	<p>observant, observance, (observation) expectant (expectation) hesitant, hesitancy (hesitation) tolerant, tolerance (toleration) substance (substantial)</p> <p>innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, confident, confidence</p> <p>assistant, assistance, obedient, obedience, independent, independence</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of the hyphen 	<p>Hyphens can be used to join a prefix to a root, especially if the prefix ends in a vowel and the root also begins with one e.g. co-ordinate.</p>	<p>co-ordinate, re-enter, co-operate, co-own</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words with the long e (ee) phoneme, spelt ei after c 	<p>Common rule: 'i before e, except after c', where the sound is spelt by ei. However, there are Exceptions: protein, caffeine, seize, neither</p>	<p>deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words containing ough 	<p>One of the trickiest spellings. Can be used to spell a number of sounds.</p>	<p>ought, bought, thought rough, tough, enough cough though, although, dough through thorough, borough plough</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words with letters which are not sounded Further homophones or near-homophones 	<p>Some 'silent' letters used to be sounded many years ago, e.g. knight</p> <p>In these pairs of words, nouns end -ce and verbs end -se e.g. advice (noun) but advise (verb)</p> <p>who's is a contraction of who is or who has; whose means belonging to someone</p>	<p>doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight</p> <p>advice/advise, device/devise, practice/practise,</p> <p>aloud/allowed, farther/further/father, guessed/guest, heard/herd, led/lead, past/passed, cereal/serial, steal/steel, who's/whose</p>
Year 6	<p>Revision of Year 3, 4 and 5 objectives. Extend and develop to Year 6 coverage below, as appropriate.</p> <p>Statutory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words ending in -able and -ible; -ably and -ibly 	<p>-able and -ably endings are far more common than -ible/-ibly.</p> <p>-ible is common if a complete root cannot be heard Exception: sensible</p> <p>When adding -able to a word ending with -ce or -ge, keep the e.</p> <p>-able is common if a complete root <i>can</i> be heard before it, e.g. depend dependable</p> <p><i>(Not in POS) Some words can be spelt two ways, e.g. loveable, lovable</i></p> <p>Double the r if the</p>	<p>adorable/adorably, applicable/applicably, considerable/considerably, tolerable/tolerably</p> <p>possible, horrible, terrible, visible, incredible</p> <p>change/changeable, notice/noticeable <i>(but force/forcible and legible)</i></p> <p>dependable, comfortable, understandable, reasonable, enjoyable, reliable</p> <p>referring, referred, referral,</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding suffixes to words ending with -fer • <i>Further use of the hyphen (not part of statutory POS)</i> • Further homophones and near-homophones 	<p>-fer is still stressed when the ending is added.</p> <p>Do not double the r if the -fer is no longer stressed.</p> <p>Use a hyphen with compound adjectives, to show that they are not a list of separate adjectives, e.g. little-used car, rather than little, used car.</p> <p>In these pairs of words, nouns end -ce and verbs end -se e.g. advice (noun) but advise (verb)</p> <p>affect: usually a verb e.g. The weather may affect our plans. effect: usually a noun e.g. It may have an effect on our plans.</p> <p>principle: basic truth or belief principal: adjective – most important noun – important person, such as principal of a college</p> <p>stationary: not moving stationery: paper etc</p>	<p>preferring, preferred, transferring, transferred</p> <p>reference, referee, preference, transference</p> <p>little-used, square-based, blue-eyed, bad-tempered</p> <p>licence/license, prophecy/prophesy (See Yr 5 for more.)</p> <p>aisle/isle altar/alter ascent/assent bridal/bride morning/mourning wary/weary profit/prophet affect/effect</p> <p>principle, principal</p> <p>stationary, stationery</p>
--	--	--	--

In Years 3 to 6, see also the Word List for Years 3 and 4, and the Word List for Years 5 and 6 in Appendix 1 of the new Programme of Study.

Written by Penny Bill

Kent Cross-Phase Literacy Consultant

September 2013