St Nicolas & St Mary CE Primary



Y5/6 Spelling

| Spelling – years 5 and 6 |
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| Statutory requirements |  | Rules and guidance (non‑statutory) | Example words (non‑statutory) |
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| Endings which sound like /ʃəs/ spelt –cious or –tious |  | Not many common words end like this.  If the root word ends in **–ce**, the /ʃ/ sound is usually spelt as **c** – e.g. *vice – vicious*, *grace – gracious*, *space – spacious*, *malice – malicious.*  **Exception**: *anxious*. | 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 *finance*, *commerce* and *province*). | 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 /æ/ or /eɪ/ sound in the right position; –**ation** endings are often a clue.  Use **–ent** and **–ence/–ency** after soft **c** (/s/ sound), soft **g** (/dʒ/ sound) and **qu**, or if there is a related word with a clear /ɛ/ 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 |

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| 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 *cap* and *gap*)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**. The first five examples opposite are obvious; in *reliable*, the complete word *rely* 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 *can* be heard (e.g. *sensible*). | adorable/adorably (adoration),  applicable/applicably (application), considerable/considerably (consideration), tolerable/tolerably (toleration)  changeable, noticeable, forcible, legible  dependable, comfortable, understandable, reasonable, enjoyable, reliable  possible/possibly, horrible/horribly, terrible/terribly, visible/visibly, incredible/incredibly, sensible/sensibly |
| Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in –fer |  | 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. | referring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, transferring, transferred  reference, referee, preference, transference |
| Use of the hyphen |  | 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. | co-ordinate, re-enter,  co-operate, co-own |

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| Words with the /i:/ sound spelt ei after c |  | The ‘**i** before **e** except after **c**’ rule applies to words where the sound spelt by **ei** is /i:/.  **Exceptions**: *protein*, *caffeine*, *seize* (and *either* and *neither* if pronounced with an initial /i:/ sound)*.* | deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling |
| 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 *knight*,there was a /k/ sound before the /n/, and the **gh** used to represent the sound that ‘ch’ now represents in the Scottish word *loch.* | doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight |
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| 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:  aisle: a gangway between seats (in a church, train, plane). isle: an island.  aloud: out loud. allowed: permitted.  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*). If a verb, it means ‘bring about’ (e.g. *He will effect changes in the running of the business*).  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. bridle: reins etc. for controlling a horse.  cereal: made from grain (e.g. breakfast cereal). serial: adjective from the noun *series* – 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 *complete* – to make something complete or more complete (e.g. *her scarf complemented her outfit*). | advice/advise  device/devise  licence/license  practice/practise  prophecy/prophesy  farther: further father: a male parent  guessed: past tense of the verb *guess* guest: visitor  heard: past tense of the verb *hear* herd: a group of animals  led: past tense of the verb *lead* lead: present tense of that verb, or else the metal which is very heavy (*as heavy as lead*)  morning: before noon mourning: grieving for someone who has died  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*) passed: past tense of the verb ‘pass’ (e.g. *I passed him in the road*)  precede: go in front of or before proceed: go on | |

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| Homophones and other words that are often confused (continued) |  | 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. *to draft in extra help*) draught: a current of air. | principal: adjective – most important (e.g. *principal ballerina*) noun – important person (e.g. *principal of a college*) 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 *who is* or *who has* whose: belonging to someone (e.g. *Whose jacket is that?*) |

| Word list – years 5 and 6 |
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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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