

Year 3 and 4 Statutory Spelling List

All 100 entries from the word list on page 16 of English Appendix 1 (national curriculum in England), grouped by the spelling rule each word illustrates. Nine entries are compound entries, so children meet more than 100 spellings. Tick each word when your child spells it correctly twice, a week apart.

Grouped by rule

More prefixes (dis-, in-, im-, re-, sub-, inter-)

disappear, increase, important, interest, describe, decide, remember, regular, recent, reign

The suffix -ous

famous, various, jealous-type endings (no -ous word is spelt -us)

/k/ spelt ch (Greek in origin)

Greek roots also explain bicycle (bi + cycle, Greek for wheel)

/s/ spelt sc, and /s/ spelt c

scene-type words; medicine, centre, century, certain, circle, exercise

Doubling the final consonant, and adding vowel suffixes

forward(s), beginning-type words, appear, arrive, believe, complete, continue, consider, imagine, promise, suppose, surprise, separate, notice

The suffix -ly and -ally

accident(ally), actual(ly), occasion(ally), probably, early, often

Endings that sound like /shun/: -tion, -sion, -ssion, -cian

question, position, mention, possess(ion), pressure, occasion(ally)

/ay/ spelt ei, eigh or ey

eight/eighth, weight, height (irregular), reign, they-type words

/u/ spelt ou, /i/ spelt y

young-type words; busy/business (the /i/ sound spelt u), grammar, mystery-type words

Homophones and near-homophones

heard/herd, heart, breath/breathe, weight/wait, reign/rain/rein, through/threw, though/although, thought

Roughly 40 entries follow no teachable pattern. Learn these by sight, using the curriculum's own word-part hooks where they exist:

address, answer, build, calendar, caught, difficult, different, earth, enough, experience, experiment, extreme, favourite, February, fruit, group, guard, guide, history, island, knowledge, learn, length, library, material, minute, natural, naughty, opposite, ordinary, particular, peculiar, perhaps, popular, possible, potatoes, purpose, quarter, sentence, special, straight, strange, strength, therefore, woman/women.

Hooks from Appendix 1: business = busy + ness (y becomes i); disappear = dis + appear; bicycle = bi + cycle; medicine is related to medical, so /s/ is spelt c; opposite is related to oppose, so the weak vowel is spelt o.

Full alphabetical checklist (100 entries)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ accident(ally) | ☐ certain | ☐ experiment | ☐ increase |
| ☐ actual(ly) | ☐ circle | ☐ extreme | ☐ important |
| ☐ address | ☐ complete | ☐ famous | ☐ interest |
| ☐ answer | ☐ consider | ☐ favourite | ☐ island |
| ☐ appear | ☐ continue | ☐ February | ☐ knowledge |
| ☐ arrive | ☐ decide | ☐ forward(s) | ☐ learn |
| ☐ believe | ☐ describe | ☐ fruit | ☐ length |
| ☐ bicycle | ☐ different | ☐ grammar | ☐ library |
| ☐ breath | ☐ difficult | ☐ group | ☐ material |
| ☐ breathe | ☐ disappear | ☐ guard | ☐ medicine |
| ☐ build | ☐ early | ☐ guide | ☐ mention |
| ☐ busy/business | ☐ earth | ☐ heard | ☐ minute |
| ☐ calendar | ☐ eight/eighth | ☐ heart | ☐ natural |
| ☐ caught | ☐ enough | ☐ height | ☐ naughty |
| ☐ centre | ☐ exercise | ☐ history | ☐ notice |
| ☐ century | ☐ experience | ☐ imagine | ☐ occasion(ally) |

☐ often	☐ possible	☐ regular	☐ suppose
☐ opposite	☐ potatoes	☐ reign	☐ surprise
☐ ordinary	☐ pressure	☐ remember	☐ therefore
☐ particular	☐ probably	☐ sentence	☐ though/although
☐ peculiar	☐ promise	☐ separate	☐ thought
☐ perhaps	☐ purpose	☐ special	☐ through
☐ popular	☐ quarter	☐ straight	☐ various
☐ position	☐ question	☐ strange	☐ weight
☐ possess(ion)	☐ recent	☐ strength	☐ woman/women

Word list reproduced from English Appendix 1: Spelling, national curriculum in England (page 16). Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. Guidance and grouping by Trace Learn, tracelearn.app.

Blank weekly test sheet

Six words a week clears the list across Years 3 and 4. Read each word aloud in a short sentence. Your child writes it once. Mark together, then retest last week's six at the bottom. Look, say, cover, write, check for anything missed.

Name: _____ Week: _____ This week's six: _____

1 _____	2 _____
3 _____	4 _____
5 _____	6 _____

Second attempt (any word missed above, written out three times)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Spaced retest: last week's six

1 _____	2 _____	3 _____
4 _____	5 _____	6 _____

Spaced retest: any two words from a month ago

1 _____	2 _____
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Use one word in a sentence of your own

Score out of 14 today: _____ Words to carry forward to next week: _____ tracelearn.app