

KS2 Spellings

Spelling Practice Cards

Years 3 and 4 Spelling Objectives



How to Use These Cards

These cards can be used to support your child in preparation for their SATs test in year 6. Each of the cards features one of the spelling objectives from the KS2 spelling curriculum. These spelling rules are taught over a four-year period in primary school (not just in year 6). On the following cards, you will find all the spelling objectives from years 3 and 4* (there is also a year 5 and 6 spelling card set). Each card contains the spelling objective, a list of example words and a 'top tip' or 'suggested activity' that you can use to practise the spellings.

To use the cards, simply select a spelling objective you would like to practise with your child. You may wish to begin by asking your child to spell a few of the target words (either aloud or on paper). If your child is very confident with a spelling objective, it's best to practise the objectives they feel less secure in as this will have most impact in supporting them with their SATs spelling test.

***These cards do not cover the target 'using apostrophes for possession with plural nouns', as this is tested in the grammar and punctuation test and not the spelling test.**

Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable

What Is a Suffix?

A suffix is a string of letters that can be added to the end of a word to change or add to its meaning (for example -er, -ing, -ed, -ation, -ous).

Top Tip

If the last syllable of a word is stressed and ends with one consonant letter with a vowel before it, the final consonant letter is doubled before adding a suffix beginning with a vowel, e.g. forget/forgetting.

The consonant letter is not doubled if the syllable is unstressed, e.g. garden/gardening.

Example Words

forgetting, forgotten
beginning, beginner
preferred, preferring
limiting, limited
travel, traveller



The /ɪ/ sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words

What Is the /ɪ/ Sound?

The /ɪ/ sound is the sound that a lower case 'i' makes, such as the 'i' in 'sit' or 'hit'. This sound can also be spelt with a 'y' in some words, such as in 'myth'.

Suggested Activity – Pyramid Writing

Ask your child to write each word in the style of a pyramid, adding another letter in the spelling each time:

P
P Y
P Y R
P Y R A
P Y R A M
P Y R A M I
P Y R A M I D

Example Words

myth, gym, Egypt,
pyramid, mystery,
dynasty, symbol,
synagogue, mysterious,
mystical



The /ʌ/ sound spelt ou

What Is the /ʌ/ Sound?

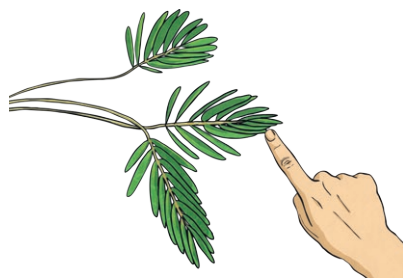
The /ʌ/ sound is the sound we normally use for the letter 'u' in words such as 'but', 'up' or 'sun'. It can also be spelt 'ou' as in 'touch'.

Suggested Activity – Which Is Right?

Make some flashcards with the correct spelling, e.g. 'touch', and the wrong spelling with the /ʌ/ spelt 'u', e.g. 'tuch'. Ask your child to choose the correct spelling on each card and spell aloud the correct word. You could make this into a game by turning the cards upside down and taking it in turns to pick one and spell the correct version of the word.

Example Words

young, touch, double, trouble, country, rough, encourage, cousin, couple, enough, tough, nourish



Prefixes

What Is a Prefix?

A prefix is a string of letters added to the start of a root word to change its meaning (for example 'clear' and 'unclear'). Each prefix has a different meaning, e.g. sub- means under.

Tip: There are many prefixes in the KS2 curriculum so you may wish to just focus on one or two at a time to support your child. Ask your child what each prefix means and find more words starting with that prefix.

Meanings of Prefixes Learnt in Years 3 and 4

Prefix	Meaning
dis-	negative, opposite
mis-	negative, opposite
in-	not
il-	not
im-	not
ir-	not
re-	again, back
sub-	under
inter-	between, among
super-	above
anti-	against
auto-	self, own

Example Words

disappoint, disagree
misbehave, misspell
inactive, incorrect
illegal, illegible
immature, immortal
irregular, irrelevant
reappear, redecorate
submarine, submerge
interrelated, international
supermarket, superstar
antiseptic, anticlockwise
autobiography, autograph

The suffix -ation

What Is a Suffix?

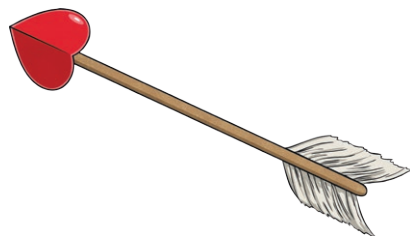
A suffix is a string of letters that are added to the end of a root word, which changes or adds to its meaning.

Top Tips When Using -ation

- Adding the suffix -ation turns a verb into a noun, e.g. 'inform' becomes 'information'.
- If a word ends in 'e', drop the 'e' before adding -ation, e.g. 'declare' becomes 'declaration'.

Example Words

information, adoration, sensation, preparation, station, decoration, donation, duration, registration, population



The suffix -ly

What Is a Suffix?

A suffix is a string of letters that are added to the end of a root word, which changes or adds to its meaning. The suffix -ly is used to make other words, often adjectives, into adverbs (e.g. 'quick' becomes 'quickly').

Rules for Adding -ly

- The suffix -ly starts with a consonant so, in most cases, it is added straight on to the end of the root word.
- If the root word ends in 'y' with a consonant before it, we change the 'y' to an 'i' before adding -ly, e.g. 'happy' becomes 'happily'.
- If the root word ends in -le, simply replace this with -ly, e.g. 'gentle' becomes 'gently'.
- If the root word ends with -ic, -ally is usually added, e.g. 'basic' becomes 'basically'.

Example Words

happily, angrily, gently, simply, basically, frantically, cautiously, nervously, fearfully, sadly, unusually, finally, comically



Words with endings sounding like /ʒə/ or /tʃə/

What Are /ʒə/ or /tʃə/?

The symbols above are taken from the phonetic alphabet. The ending /ʒə/ is always spelt 'sure' in English. The ending sounding like /tʃə/ is often spelt 'ture' but this sound can be also be found in words ending in '(t)ch' with the suffix 'er', such as teacher, catcher, richer and stretcher.

Suggested Activity – Mirror Images

In this activity, ask your child to write each word out correctly and then write it in reverse, as if in a mirror. For example:

treasure erusaert

Example Words

measure, treasure,
pleasure, enclosure,
creature, furniture,
picture, nature, adventure,
pressure, exposure, leisure,
puncture, fracture



Words with endings which sound like /ʒən/

What Is /ʒən/?

The symbols above are taken from the phonetic alphabet. If the ending of a word sounds like /ʒən/, it is spelt 'sion' in English, like division.

Suggested Activity – Rainbow Write

First, write each word in pencil. Then, trace over the word three times but each time, use a different coloured pencil or crayon. Trace neatly and you will create a rainbow effect.



Example Words

division, invasion,
confusion, decision,
collision, television,
occasion, persuasion,
vision, conclusion



The suffix -ous

What Is a Suffix?

A suffix is a string of letters that are added to the end of a root word, which changes or adds to its meaning (e.g. 'joy' becomes 'joyous').

Top Tips for Adding -ous

- If the root word ends in -e, drop the -e before adding the suffix, e.g. carnivore + ous = carnivorous. The exceptions to this are if the root word ends in the /dʒ/ sound of 'g', e.g. courageous, or in some cases where there is an /i:/ sound before the -ous ending, e.g. hideous.
- If a word ends in a consonant and a y, change the 'y' to an 'i' before adding -ous, e.g. victory + ous = victorious. If there is a vowel before the 'y', it doesn't change.
- When the word ends in -our, change it to -or before adding -ous, e.g. humour + ous = humorous.
- If none of the above rules apply, we just add -ous to the end of the word, e.g. poison + ous = poisonous. Some -ous words have no obvious root words, e.g. tremendous.

Example Words

adventurous,
poisonous,
dangerous,
mountainous,
famous, various,
tremendous,
enormous, jealous,
humorous,
glamorous,
vigorous,
courageous,
outrageous,
serious, obvious,
curious, hideous,
spontaneous,
courteous

Words endings which sound like /ʃən/

What Is /ʃən/?

The /ʃən/ sound can be written -tion, -sion, -ssion or -cian. Clues about whether to use -tion, -sion, -ssion or -cian often come from the last letter or letters of the root word.

Top Tips for Which /ʃən/ Spelling to Use

- If the root word ends in 't' or 'te', drop these letters and add -tion, e.g. invent becomes invention.
- If the root word ends in 'ss' or 'mit', drop these letters and add -ssion, e.g. express becomes expression.
- If the root word ends in 'd' or 'se', -sion is usually added (with the exception of attend and intend). For example, expand becomes expansion.
- If the root word ends in 'c' or 'cs', drop these letters and add -cian, e.g. music becomes musician.

Example Words

invention, injection,
action, hesitation,
completion,
expression,
discussion,
confession,
permission,
admission,
expansion, extension,
comprehension,
tension, musician,
electrician,
magician, politician,
mathematician



Words with the /k/ sound spelt ch

What Is the /k/ Sound?

Words where the /k/ sound is spelt ch (like chorus) are Greek in origin.

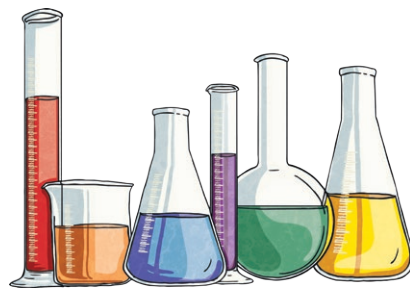
Suggested Activity – Scrambled Words

On a sheet of paper, write all the letters in each word you are practising in a scrambled order. Later, come back to the words and see if you can unscramble them and write out each word correctly.

rhcsuo = chorus

Example Words

ache, anchor, chaos, chemist, chorus, echo, monarch, scheme, stomach, architect, character, chemistry, orchestra, mechanic, technical, school, technology



Words with the /ʃ/ sound spelt ch

What Is the /ʃ/ Sound?

Words where the /ʃ/ sound is spelt ch (like chef) are mostly French in origin.

Suggested Activity – Dot to Dot

Write each one of your spelling words out in dots. Then, join the dots together using a coloured pencil.

chalet

Example Words

chef, chalet, machine, brochure, parachute, chute, champagne, chandelier, charade, chevron, chiffon, chivalry, crochet, machinery



Words ending with the /g/ sound spelt -gue and the /k/ sound spelt -que

What Are the /g/ and /k/ Sounds?

In these spellings, the /g/ sound is spelt -gue (e.g. tongue) and the /k/ sound is spelt -que (e.g. antique). These spellings are French in origin.

Suggested Activity – Bubble Writing

On a plain sheet of paper, write all your target spellings using bubble letters. Then, colour the letters of each word using attractive and bright colours. You can use your poster to refer to later when practising your target words.

Example Words

league, tongue, antique, unique, mosque, cheque, fatigue, intrigue, vague, rogue



Words with the /s/ sound spelt sc

What Is the /s/ Sound?

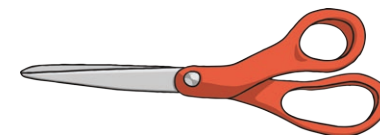
In these spellings, the /s/ is spelt with 'sc', e.g. science. These words are Latin in origin.

Suggested Activity – Torch Writing

This is a great, fun activity to help practise your target spellings. Close all the curtains and turn out the lights in a room to make it really dark. Then, with a torch, write out each spelling on the wall. Get someone to test you as you do each spelling to make sure you get it right!

Example Words

science, scene, discipline, fascinate, crescent, scenery, scent, scissors, ascend, descend



Words with the /eɪ/ sound spelt ei, eigh, or ey

What Is the /eɪ/ Sound?

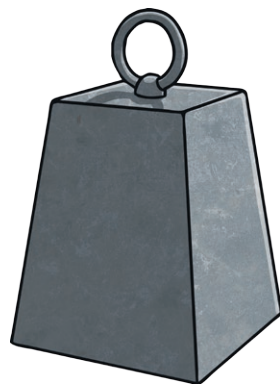
This sound is pronounced 'ay' and can be spelt -ei, -eigh or -ey (e.g. vein, weigh, obey).

Suggested Activity – Point Spelling Game

Use letter game tiles to spell out each word. Investigate which word would give you the highest score.

Example Words

vein, weight, eight, neighbour, they, obey, reindeer, freight, eighteen, reign



Years 3 and 4 Word List

The words in this list are statutory and need to be learnt. They are a mixture of words children frequently use in their writing and those which they often misspell.

accident	accidentally	actual	actually	address	answer	appear
arrive	believe	bicycle	breath	breathe	build	busy
business	calendar	caught	centre	century	certain	circle
complete	consider	continue	decide	describe	different	difficult
disappear	early	earth	eight	eighth	enough	exercise
experience	experiment	extreme	famous	favourite	February	forward
forwards	fruit	grammar	interest	island	knowledge	learn
length	library	material	medicine	mention	minute	natural
naughty	notice	occasion	occasionally	often	opposite	ordinary
particular	peculiar	perhaps	popular	position	possess	possession
possible	potatoes	pressure	probably	promise	purpose	quarter
question	recent	regular	reign	remember	sentence	separate
special	straight	strange	strength	suppose	surprise	therefore
though	although	thought	through	various	weight	woman
women						