

Y3/Y4 Spelling Rules

Rule	Example Words
Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable	forgetting, forgotten, beginning, beginner, prefer, preferred gardening, gardener, limiting, limited, limitation
The /ɪ/ sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words	myth, gym, Egypt, pyramid, mystery
The /ʌ/ sound spelt ou	young, touch, double, trouble, country
More prefixes	dis- : disappoint, disagree, disobey mis- : misbehave, mislead, misspell (mis + spell) in- : inactive, incorrect il- : illegal, illegible im- : immature, immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect ir- : irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible re- : redo, refresh, return, reappear, redecorate sub- : subdivide, subheading, submarine, submerge inter- : interact, intercity, international, interrelated (inter + related) super- : supermarket, superman, superstar anti- : antiseptic, anticlockwise, antisocial auto- : autobiography, autograph
The suffix -ation	information, adoration, sensation, preparation, admiration
The suffix -ly	sadly, completely, usually (usual + ly), finally (final + ly), comically (comical + ly) happily, angrily gently, simply, humbly, nobly basically, frantically, dramatically
Words with endings sounding like /ʒə/ or /tʃə/	measure, treasure, pleasure, enclosure creature, furniture, picture, nature, adventure
Endings which sound like /ʒən/	division, invasion, confusion, decision, collision, television
The suffix -ous	poisonous, dangerous, mountainous, famous, various tremendous, enormous, jealous humorous, glamorous, vigorous courageous, outrageous serious, obvious, curious hideous, spontaneous, courteous
Endings which sound like /ʃən/, spelt -tion, -sion, -ssion, -cian	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 (Greek in origin)	scheme, chorus, chemist, echo, character
Words with the /ʃ/ sound spelt ch (mostly French in origin)	chef, chalet, machine, brochure
Words ending with the /g/ sound spelt -gue and the /k/ sound spelt -que (French in origin)	league, tongue, antique, unique

Words with the /s/ sound spelt sc (Latin in origin)	science, scene, discipline, fascinate, crescent
Words with the /eɪ / sound spelt ei, eigh, or ey	vein, weigh, eight, neighbour, they, obey
Possessive apostrophe with plural words	girls', boys', babies', children's, men's, mice's
Homophones and near-homophones	accept/except, affect/effect, ball/bawl, berry/bury, brake/break, fair/fare, grate/great, groan/grown, here/hear, heel/heal/he'll, knot/not, mail/male, main/mane, meat/meet, medal/meddle, missed/mist, peace/piece, plain/plane, rain/rein/reign, scene/seen, weather/whether, whose/who's

SPELLING LISTS

These are the statutory word lists for Year 3 and Year 4. Please can you support your child to learn these spellings:

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