

Y5/Y6 Spelling Rules

Rule	Example Words
Endings which sound like Jspelt –cious or –tious / əs/	vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious ambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious
Endings which sound like	official, special, artificial, partial, confidential, essential
Words ending in –ant, –ance/–ancy, –ent, –ence/–ency	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
Words ending in –able and –ible Words ending in –ably and –ibly	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	referring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, transferring, transferred reference, referee, preference, transference
Use of the hyphen	co-ordinate, re-enter, co-operate, co-own
Words with the /i:/ sound spelt ei after c	deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling
Words containing the letter-string ough	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)	doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight

Homophones and other words that are often confused	<p>advice/advise device/devise licence/license practice/practise prophecy/prophesy farther: further father: a male parent guessed: past tense of the verb <i>guess</i> guest: visitor heard: past tense of the verb <i>hear</i> herd: a group of animals led: past tense of the verb <i>lead</i> lead: present tense of that verb, or else the metal which is very heavy (<i>as heavy as lead</i>) morning: before noon mourning: grieving for someone who has died past: noun or adjective referring to a previous time (e.g. <i>In the past</i>) or preposition or adverb showing place (e.g. <i>he walked past me</i>) passed: past tense of the verb 'pass' (e.g. <i>I passed him in the road</i>) precede: go in front of or before proceed: go on principal: adjective – most important (e.g. <i>principal ballerina</i>) noun – important person (e.g. <i>principal of a college</i>) 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 <i>who is</i> or <i>who has</i> whose: belonging to someone (e.g. <i>Whose jacket is that?</i>)</p>
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SPELLING LISTS

These are the statutory word lists for Year 5 and Year 6. Please can you support your child to learn these spellings:

accommodate	competition	existence	muscle	rhyme
accompany	conscience*	explanation	necessary	rhythm
according	conscious*	familiar	neighbour	sacrifice
achieve	controversy	foreign	nuisance	secretary
aggressive	convenience	forty	occupy	shoulder
amateur	correspond	frequently	occur	signature
ancient	criticise	government	opportunity	sincere(ly)
apparent	curiosity	guarantee	parliament	soldier
appreciate	definite	harass	persuade	stomach
attached	desperate	hindrance	physical	sufficient
available	determined	identity	prejudice	suggest
average	develop	immediate(ly)	privilege	symbol
awkward	dictionary	individual	profession	system
bargain	disastrous	interfere	programme	temperature
bruise	embarrass	interrupt	pronunciation	thorough
category	environment	language	queue	twelfth
cemetery	equip (ped, ment)	leisure	recognise	variety
committee	especially	lightning	recommend	vegetable
communicate	exaggerate	marvellous	relevant	vehicle
community	excellent	mischievous	restaurant	yacht