

Autumn Term

The vocabulary in red is from common exception list for Y3-4.

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Understanding the history of words and relationships between them can also help with spelling. Examples:

Conscience and conscious are related to science: conscience is simply science with the prefix con- added. These words come from the Latin word scio meaning I know.

The word desperate, meaning 'without hope', is often pronounced in English as desp'rate, but the -sper- part comes from the Latin spero, meaning 'I hope', in which the e was clearly sounded.

Familiar is related to family, so the /ə/ sound in the first syllable of familiar is spelt as a.

Term / Wk Focus	Year 5/6 Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Suggested spellings	Common exception list vocabulary*	Vocabulary from other curricular areas (it may be suitable to fill this in as you go along)
Autumn 1 -cious	Endings which sound like /jəs/ spelt -cious or -tious.	Not many common words end like this. If the root word ends in -ce, the /?/ sound is usually spelt as c – e.g. vice – vicious, grace – gracious, space – spacious, malice – malicious. Exception: anxious	conscious precious unconscious suspicious delicious vicious spacious gracious subconscious ferocious malicious judicious vivacious luscious atrocious precocious tenacious auspicious audacious	According, aggressive, amateur, address, answer, answered	
Autumn 2 -tious	Endings which sound like /jəs/ spelt -cious or -tious.	Not many common words end like this. If the root word ends in -ce, the /?/ sound is usually spelt as c – e.g. vice – vicious, grace – gracious, space – spacious, malice – malicious. Exception: anxious	ambitious cautious contentious infectious conscientious nutritious pretentious fictitious superstitious propitious vexatious fractious ostentatious facetious surreptitious unpretentious	Accommodate accident(ally) actual(ly) , accompany, Achieve	
Autumn 3 -cial	Endings which sound like /jəl/	-cial is common after a vowel letter	social special official financial commercial crucial judicial artificial provincial racial beneficial superficial unofficial facial glacial especial psychosocial sacrificial prejudicial antisocial multiracial	Ancient apparent appreciate Appear arrive	
Autumn 4 -tial	Endings which sound like /jəl/	-tial after a consonant letter. Exceptions: initial, financial, commercial, provincial (the spelling of the last three is clearly related to finance, commerce and province).	potential essential initial substantial residential presidential partial influential differential spatial confidential martial sequential impartial preferential consequential celestial existential circumstantial prudential torrential referential exponential palatial	Attached available average Believe bicycle	

			<p>inertial inconsequential insubstantial</p> <p>interstitial experiential quintessential evidential deferential</p>		
<p>Autumn 5 -ant</p>	<p>Words ending in –ant, –ance/–ancy, –ent, –ence/–ency</p>	<p>Use –ant and –ance/–ancy if there is a related word with a /æ/ or /e?/ sound in the right position; –ation endings are often a clue.</p>	<p>important significant defendant servant assistant constant sergeant relevant tenant pleasant peasant consultant merchant giant infant applicant brilliant participant accountant dominant warrant instant distant covenant unpleasant elephant pregnant protestant reluctant elegant inhabitant variant ant irrelevant attendant descendant claimant migrant occupant informant ignorant dependant extravagant pollutant triumphant</p>	<p>Awkward bargain bruise Breath</p>	
<p>Autumn 6 -ance</p>	<p>Words ending in –ant, –ance/–ancy, –ent, –ence/–ency</p>	<p>Use –ant and –ance/–ancy if there is a related word with a /æ/ or /e?/ sound in the right position; –ation endings are often a clue.</p>	<p>performance importance finance distance insurance balance advance appearance circumstance dance glance significance assistance resistance alliance entrance substance allowance acceptance instance enhance assurance appliance attendance stance ambulance relevance guidance compliance inheritance disturbance ignorance renaissance romance nuisance utterance clearance surveillance tolerance resemblance abundance reassurance annoyance avoidance elegance grievance reliance maintenance</p>	<p>Category cemetery committee breathe</p>	
<p>Autumn 7 -ancy</p>	<p>Words ending in –ant, –ance/–ancy, –ent, –ence/–ency</p>	<p>Use –ant and –ance/–ancy if there is a related word with a /æ/ or /e?/ sound in the right position; –ation endings are often a clue.</p>	<p>pregnancy fancy redundancy consultancy tenancy expectancy discrepancy vacancy accountancy occupancy infancy truancy malignancy conservancy ascendancy constancy militancy hesitancy poignancy vibrancy buoyancy</p>	<p>Communicate community competition Build busy/business</p>	

<p>Autumn 8 -ent</p>	<p>Words ending in –ant, –ance/–ancy, –ent, –ence/–ency</p>	<p>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 /?/ sound in the right position. There are many words, however, where the above guidelines don't help. These words just have to be learnt.</p>	<p>government development different went moment management present department president patient movement event student agreement environment treatment parent statement investment employment argument extent represent parliament equipment element comment prevent client current document recent payment accident assessment content involvement commitment requirement agent arrangement independent spent improvement appointment settlement experiment incident establishment component rent sent</p>	<p>conscience* conscious* controversy calendar caught Centre</p>	
<p>Autumn 9 -ence</p>	<p>Words ending in –ant, –ance/–ancy, –ent, –ence/–ency</p>	<p>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 /?/ sound in the right position. There are many words, however, where the above guidelines don't help. These words just have to be learnt.</p>	<p>experience evidence difference influence defence science conference reference presence sentence confidence existence silence audience absence consequence violence sequence offence licence intelligence preference hence independence essence fence residence incidence competence correspondence conscience interference pence dependence negligence occurrence emergence obedience coincidence convenience commence insistence excellence inference prominence patience prevalence</p>	<p>convenience correspond criticise(critic + ise) century</p>	
<p>Autumn 10 -ency</p>	<p>Words ending in –ant, –ance/–ancy, –ent, –ence/–ency</p>	<p>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 /?/ sound in the right position. There are many words, however, where the above guidelines don't help. These words just have to be learnt.</p>	<p>agency emergency currency efficiency tendency frequency constituency presidency consistency deficiency urgency dependency contingency insolvency potency decency inconsistency sufficiency transparency regency proficiency complacency delinquency latency solvency insurgency expediency insufficiency indecency residency fluency</p>	<p>curiosity definite desperate Certain circle</p>	

			immunodeficiency competency excellency leniency patency clemency inefficiency		
Autumn 11 -able	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 advisable agreeable avoidable capable breakable changeable comfortable disposable employable enjoyable fashionable identifiable inexcusable manageable miserable noticeable portable probable reliable remarkable replaceable respectable sociable valuable vegetable	determined develop dictionary Complete consider	
Autumn 12 -ible	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	accessible audible credible destructible edible flexible horrible impossible indestructible invincible legible possible responsible reversible sensible susceptible terrible visible	disastrous embarrass environment Continue decide	

		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).			
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Spring Term

The vocabulary in red is from common exception list for Y3-4.

*Teachers should continue to emphasis to pupils the relationships between sounds and letters, even when the relationships are unusual. Once root words are learnt in this way, longer words can be spelt correctly if the rules and guidelines for adding prefixes and suffixes are also known. Many of the words in the list above can be used for practice in adding suffixes.

Understanding the history of words and relationships between them can also help with spelling. Examples:

Conscience and conscious are related to science: conscience is simply science with the prefix con- added. These words come from the Latin word scio meaning I know.

The word desparate, meaning 'without hope', is often pronounced in English as desp'rate, but the -sper- part comes from the Latin spero, meaning 'I hope', in which the e was clearly sounded.

Familiar is related to family, so the /ə/ sound in the first syllable of familiar is spelt as a.

Term / Wk Focus	Year 5 / Year 6 Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Suggested spellings	Common exception list vocabulary *	Vocabulary from other curricular areas (it may be suitable to fill this in as you go along)
Spring 1 -ably	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.	probably presumably reasonably inevitably considerably notably invariably remarkably comfortably preferably suitably arguably understandably uncomfortably unreasonably noticeably conceivably reliably irritably miserably predictably unmistakably undeniably unquestionably inextricably regrettably justifiably unbelievably profitably admirably inexplicably improbably unavoidably uncontrollably impeccably inescapably agreeably amiably ably appreciably	equip (–ped, –ment) especially exaggerate Describe different	
Spring 2 -ibly		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).	possibly terribly audibly forcibly sensibly visibly ostensibly horribly imperceptibly impossibly plausibly irresistibly indelibly invisibly responsibly flexibly perceptibly incredibly	excellent existence explanation difficult disappear	
Spring 3 -fer stressed	Adding suffixes beginning with vowel	The r is doubled if the –fer is still stressed when the ending is added.	referencing refereeing preferencing buffering chaffering coffering differing goffering offering proffering reoffering suffering chamfering interfering pilfering	familiar foreign forty Early earth	

	letters to words ending in -fer		<i>buffered chattered chamfered coffered differed goffered interfered offered pilfered proffered reoffered suffered unbuffered conferencing</i>		
Spring 4 -fer unstressed		The r is not doubled if the -fer is no longer stressed.	feral transferal <i>circumference conference countertransference deference difference indifference inference interference misreference nonconference non-interference preference reference teleconference transference videoconference</i>	frequently government guarantee eight/eighth enough	
Spring 5 -hyphen	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. Compounds with these prefixes are sometimes (but not always) hyphenated to avoid doubling a vowel or tripling a consonant, and sometimes even to prevent initial misreading or mispronunciation. 1. To avoid doubling a vowel: anti-art anti-administration co-opt (but cooperation) de-emphasize 2. To avoid tripling a consonant: shell-like 3. To prevent initial reading or mispronunciation: re-cover vs. recover (I will re-cover the sofa when I recover from the flu.)	co-ordinate re-enter co-operate co-own	harass hindrance identity exercise experience	
Spring 6 ee:ei	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).	ceiling conceit deceive perceive receive receipt conceited conceive deceit	immediate(ly) individual interfere Experiment extreme	
Spring 7 or	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	Interrupt language leisure Famous favourite	

Spring 8 u f	ough is one of the trickiest spellings in English – it can be used to spell a number of different sounds.	rough tough enough chough	Lightning marvellous mischievous February forward(s)	
Spring 9 o	ough is one of the trickiest spellings in English – it can be used to spell a number of different sounds.	cough	Muscle necessary neighbour Fruit grammar	
Spring 10 o-e	ough is one of the trickiest spellings in English – it can be used to spell a number of different sounds.	though although dough	Nuisance occupy occur Group guard	
Spring 11 oo	ough is one of the trickiest spellings in English – it can be used to spell a number of different sounds.	through breakthrough	Opportunity parliament persuade Guide heard	
Spring 12 u	ough is one of the trickiest spellings in English – it can be used to spell a number of different sounds.	thorough borough	Physical prejudice privilege Heart height	

Summer Term

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SUM 1 ow	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.	Plough ploughing	Profession programme pronunciation History imagine	
SUM 2 Silent letters	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.	a - artistically logically musically romantically, b -bomb dumb lamb numb thumb doubt debt climb comb crumbs numb subtle tomb c - abscess ascend ascent conscience conscious crescent descend descent disciple fascinate fluorescent incandescent isosceles luminescent miscellaneous muscle obscene resuscitate scenario scene scent scissors d - Wednesday sandwich handsome edge bridge handkerchief e – breathe g – sign champagne gnaw reign align assign benign campaign cologne consign design feign foreign gnarl gnash gnat gnaw gnome gnu resign	Queue recognise recommend increase important	
SUM 3 Homophones	Homophones and other words that are often confused	In these pairs of words, nouns end –ce and verbs end –se. Advice and advise provide a useful clue as	Alphabetically h - honest ghost heir hour what whether rhubarb rhyme ache anchor archaeology architect archives chaos character characteristic charisma chemical chemist chemotherapy	Relevant restaurant rhyme Interest island	

		<p>the word advise (verb) is pronounced with a /z/ sound – which could not be spelt c. advice/advise device/devise licence/license practice/practise prophecy/prophesy</p>	<p>chlorine choir cholera chord choreograph chorus Christian Christmas chrome echo leprechaun loch mechanical melancholy monarch monochrome orchestra orchid psychic scheme school stomach technical technique technology i - business k - knead knife knight knock knot know knack knapsack knave knead knee kneel knell knew knickers knife knit knob knoll knot knowledge knuckle l – would should calf half salmon talk yolk folk calm calf half m – mnemonic n - autumn column condemn damn hymn solemn o – colonel p - corps coup pneumonia psychology receipt pseudo psychiatrist psychiatry psychotherapy psychotic receipt r – s- aisle island debris apropos bourgeois t - asthma ballet castle gourmet listen rapport ricochet soften apostle bristle bustle fasten glisten hustle jostle listen moisten mortgage often * nestle rustle soften * thistle trestle whistle wrestle u - guess guard guide guilt guitar baguette biscuit build built circuit disguise guest guide guild guile guillotine guilty guise rogue silhouette w - answer sword two whole wrist write who awry playwright sword wrack wrangle wrap wrapper wrath wreak wreath wreck wreckage wren wrench wrest wrestle wretch wretched wriggle wring wrinkle wrist writ write writhe wrong wrote wrought wrung wry x – faux pas z - rendezvous</p>		
<p>SUM 4 o_e</p>	<p>Words containing the letter-string ough</p>	<p>ough is one of the trickiest spellings in English – it can be used to spell a number of different sounds.</p>	<p>though although dough</p>	<p>Rhythm sacrifice secretary Knowledge learn</p>	
<p>SUM 5 o</p>		<p>ough is one of the trickiest spellings in English – it can be used to spell a number of different sounds.</p>	<p>cough</p>	<p>Shoulder signature sincere(ly) Length library</p>	

<p>SUM 6 Homophones</p>	<p>Homophones and other words that are often confused</p>	<p>In these pairs of words, 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. advice/advise device/devise licence/license practice/practise prophecy/prophesy</p>	<p>Alphabetically 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</p>	<p>Soldier stomach sufficient material medicine</p>	
<p>SUM 7 o_e</p>	<p>Words containing the letter-string ough</p>	<p>ough is one of the trickiest spellings in English – it can be used to spell a number of different sounds.</p>	<p>though although dough</p>	<p>Suggest symbol system mention minute</p>	
<p>SUM 8 COMMON EXCEPTION LIST</p>	<p>Homophones and other words that are often confused</p>	<p>In these pairs of words, 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. advice/advise device/devise licence/license practice/practise prophecy/prophesy</p>	<p>Alphabetically 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</p>	<p>Temperature thorough twelfth Natural naughty</p>	
<p>SUM 9 oo</p>	<p>Words containing the letter-string ough</p>	<p>ough is one of the trickiest spellings in English – it can be used to spell a number of different sounds.</p>	<p>through breakthrough</p>	<p>Variety vegetable vehicle notice occasion(ally)</p>	
<p>SUM 10 Homophones</p>	<p>Homophones and other words that are often confused</p>	<p>In these pairs of words, nouns end –ce and verbs end –se. Advice and advise provide a useful clue as the word advise (verb) is</p>	<p>Alphabetically complement: related to the word complete – to make something complete or more complete (e.g. her scarf complemented her outfit) descent: the act of descending (going down)</p>	<p>Yacht often opposite ordinary promise</p>	

		<p>pronounced with a /z/ sound – which could not be spelt c. advice/advise device/devise licence/license practice/practise prophecy/prophesy</p>	<p>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 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)</p>		
SUM 11 u	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.	thorough borough	<p>purpose quarter question recent regular reign remember sentence separate special straight strange</p>	
SUM 12 Homophones	Homophones and other words that are often confused	<p>In these pairs of words, 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. advice/advise device/devise licence/license practice/practise prophecy/prophesy</p>	<p>Alphabetically 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 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</p>	<p>strength suppose surprise therefore though/although thought through various weight woman/women</p>	

		whose: belonging to someone (e.g. Whose jacket is that?)		
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International Phonetic Alphabet (non-statutory)

The table below shows each symbol of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and provides examples of the associated grapheme(s).¹ The table is not a comprehensive alphabetic code chart; it is intended simply as guidance for teachers in understanding the IPA symbols used in the spelling appendix ([English Appendix 1](#)). The pronunciations in the table are, by convention, based on Received Pronunciation and could be significantly different in other accents.

Consonants	
/b/	bad
/d/	dog
/ð/	this
/dʒ/	gem, jug
/f/	if, puff, photo
/g/	gum
/h/	how
/j/	yes
/k/	cat, check, key, school
/l/	leg, hill
/m/	man
/n/	man
/ŋ/	sing
/θ/	both
/p/	pet
/r/	red
/s/	sit, miss, cell
/ʃ/	she, chef
/t/	tea
/tʃ/	check
/v/	vet
/w/	wet, when
/z/	zip, hens, buzz
/ʒ/	pleasure

Vowels	
/ɑː/	father, arm
/ɒ/	hot
/æ/	cat
/aɪ/	mind, fine, pie, high
/aʊ/	out, cow
/ɛ/	hen, head
/eɪ/	say, came, bait
/ɛə/	air
/əʊ/	cold, boat, cone, blow
/ɪ/	hit
/ɪə/	beer
/iː/	she, bead, see, scheme, chief
/ɔː/	launch, raw, born
/ɔɪ/	coin, boy
/ʊ/	book
/ʊə/	tour
/uː/	room, you, blue, brute
/ʌ/	cup
/ɜː/	fern, turn, girl
/ə/	farmer

¹ This chart is adapted slightly from the version provided on the DfE's website to support the Year 1 phonics screening check.