



Spelling in Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)

Revise work done in previous years		
New work for Years 5 and 6		
Statutory requirements	Rules and guidelines (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
Endings which sound like /ʃəs/ spelt –cious or –tious	Not many common words end like this. If the root word ends in –ce , the /ʃ/ sound is usually spelt as c – e.g. <i>vice</i> – <i>vicious</i> , <i>grace</i> – <i>gracious</i> , <i>space</i> – <i>spacious</i> , <i>malice</i> – <i>malicious</i> . Exception: <i>anxious</i>	vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious ambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious
Endings which sound like /ʃəl/	–cial is common after a vowel letter and –tial after a consonant letter, but there are some exceptions. Exceptions: initial, financial, commercial, provincial (the spelling of the last three is clearly related to <i>finance</i> , <i>commerce</i> and <i>province</i>).	official, special, artificial, partial, confidential, essential
Words ending in –ant, –ance/–ancy, –ent, –ence/–ency	Use –ant and –ance/–ancy if there is a related word with a /æ/ or /eɪ/ sound in the right position; –ation endings are often a clue. 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 /ɛ/ sound in the right position. There are many words, however, where the above guidelines don't help. These words just have to be learnt.	observant, observance, (observ <u>a</u> tion), expectant (expect <u>a</u> tion), hesitant, hesitancy (hesit <u>a</u> tion), tolerant, tolerance (toler <u>a</u> tion), substance (subst <u>a</u> ntial) innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, confident, confidence (confidential) assistant, assistance, obedient, obedience, independent, independence
Words ending in –able and –ible	The –able ending is far more common than the –ible ending. 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 <i>cap</i> and <i>gap</i>) 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 <i>reliable</i> , the complete word <i>rely</i> 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 <i>can</i> be heard (e.g. <i>sensible</i>).	adorable (adoration), applicable (application), considerable (consideration), tolerable (toleration) changeable, noticeable, forcible, legible dependable, comfortable, understandable, reasonable, enjoyable, reliable possible, horrible, terrible, visible, incredible, sensible
Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in –fer	The r is doubled if the –fer is still stressed when the ending is added. The r is not doubled if the –fer is no longer stressed.	referring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, transferring, transferred reference, referee, preference, transference

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.	co-ordinate, re-enter, co-operate, co-own
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: <i>protein, caffeine, seize</i> (and <i>either</i> and <i>neither</i> if pronounced with an initial /i:/ sound).	deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling
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 rough, tough, enough cough though, although, dough through thorough, borough plough
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 <i>knight</i> , there was a /k/ sound before the /n/, and the gh used to represent the sound that 'ch' now represents in the Scottish word <i>loch</i> .	doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight
Homophones and other words that are often confused	In these pairs of words, nouns end -ce and verbs end -se . <i>Advice</i> and <i>advise</i> provide a useful clue as the word <i>advise</i> (verb) is pronounced with a /z/ sound – which could not be spelt c . aisle: a gangway between seats (in a church, train, plane) isle: an island aloud: out loud allowed: permitted affect: usually a verb (e.g. <i>The weather may affect our plans.</i>) effect: usually a noun (e.g. <i>It may have an effect on our plans.</i>). If a verb, it means 'bring about' (e.g. <i>He will effect changes in the running of the business.</i>). altar: a table-like piece of furniture in a church alter: to change 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)	advice/advise device/devise licence/license practice/practise prophecy/prophesy eligible: suitable to be chosen or elected illegible: not legible (i.e. unreadable) eliminate: get rid of/exclude illuminate: light up 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

	<p>serial: adjective from the noun <i>series</i> – a succession of things one after the other</p> <p>compliment: to make nice remarks about someone (verb) or the remark that is made (noun)</p> <p>complement: related to the word <i>complete</i> – to make something complete or more complete (e.g. <i>her scarf complemented her outfit</i>)</p> <p>descent: the act of descending (going down)</p> <p>dissent: to disagree/disagreement (verb and noun)</p> <p>desert: as a noun – a barren place (stress on first syllable); as a verb – to abandon (stress on second syllable)</p> <p>dessert: (stress on second syllable) a sweet course after the main course of a meal</p> <p>disinterested: not having a personal stake in the matter (a World Cup referee must be disinterested – i.e. must not be from one of the countries playing in the match)</p> <p>uninterested: not interested, bored (a referee should be interested, not uninterested, in football)</p> <p>draft: noun – a first attempt at writing something; verb – to make the first attempt; also, to draw in someone (e.g. <i>to draft in extra help</i>)</p> <p>draught: a current of air</p>	<p>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>)</p> <p>passed: past tense of the verb 'pass' (e.g. <i>I passed him in the road</i>)</p> <p>precede: go in front of or before</p> <p>proceed: go on</p> <p>principal: adjective – most important (e.g. <i>principal ballerina</i>) noun – important person (e.g. <i>principal of a college</i>)</p> <p>principle: basic truth or belief</p> <p>profit: money that is made in selling things</p> <p>prophet: someone who foretells the future</p> <p>stationary: not moving</p> <p>stationery: paper, envelopes etc.</p> <p>steal: take something that does not belong to you</p> <p>steel: metal</p> <p>wary: cautious</p> <p>weary: tired</p> <p>who's: contraction of <i>who is</i> or <i>who has</i></p> <p>whose: belonging to someone (e.g. <i>Whose jacket is that?</i>)</p>
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Word list for Years 5 and 6

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

