

Number	Spelling Pattern (Statutory)	Notes and Guidance (Non-statutory)	Example Words (Non-statutory) <i>May be used as weekly spelling list</i>
1	Endings which sound like /ʃəs/ spelt -cious or -tious	<p>Not many common words end like this.</p> <p>If the root word ends in -ce, the /ʃ/ sound is usually spelt as c – e.g. <i>vice – vicious, grace – gracious, space – spacious, malice – malicious.</i></p> <p>Exception: <i>anxious.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. vicious 2. malicious 3. gracious 4. spacious 5. suspicious 6. ambitious 7. cautious 8. infectious 9. nutritious 10. anxious
2	Endings which sound like /ʃəl/	<p>-cial is common after a vowel letter and -tial after a consonant letter, but there are some exceptions.</p> <p>Exceptions: <i>initial, financial, commercial, provincial</i> (the spelling of the last three is clearly related to <i>finance, commerce and province</i>).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. official 2. special 3. artificial 4. partial 5. potential 6. confidential 7. essential 8. financial 9. commercial 10. initial
3	Words ending in -ant, -ance/-ancy, -ent, -ence/-ency	<p>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.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. observant 2. observance 3. observation 4. hesitant 5. hesitancy 6. hesitation 7. tolerant

			8. tolerance 9. substantial 10. assistance
4	Words ending in -ant , -ance/-ancy , -ent , -ence/-ency	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 guidance does not help. These words just have to be learnt.	1. innocent 2. innocence 3. decent 4. decency 5. frequent 6. frequency 7. independent 8. independence 9. confident 10. confidence
5	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 <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 last few 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.	1. noticeable 2. dependable 3. comfortable 4. reasonable 5. enjoyable 6. reliable 7. adorably 8. applicably 9. considerably 10. tolerably
6	Words ending in -able and -ible Words ending in -ably and -ibly	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>).	1. forcible 2. legible 3. possible 4. horrible 5. terrible 6. visible 7. incredible 8. incredibly 9. sensible 10. sensibly

	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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. preferring 2. preferred 3. transferring 4. transferred 5. referring 6. referral 7. reference 8. referee 9. preference 10. transference
8	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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. co-ordinate 2. co-operate 3. co-own 4. re-enter 5. re-elect 6. re-educate 7. all-inclusive 8. non-refundable 9. self-esteem 10. mid-February
9	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).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. deceive 2. conceive 3. receive 4. perceive 5. ceiling 6. conceit 7. receipt 8. protein 9. caffeine 10. seize
10	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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. rough 2. tough 3. enough 4. ought 5. bought

			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. nought 7. brought 8. fought 9. thought 10. thoughtless
11	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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. though 2. although 3. dough 4. through 5. throughout 6. thorough 7. borough 8. plough 9. bough 10. cough
12	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> .	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. lamb 2. limb 3. knot 4. knight 5. island 6. solemn 7. thistle 8. loch 9. doubt 10. doubtless
13	Homophones and other words that are often confused	In the pairs of words opposite, 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 .	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. advice 2. advise 3. device 4. devise 5. licence 6. license 7. practice 8. practise 9. prophecy

14	Homophones and other words that are often confused	<p>More examples:</p> <p>aisle: a gangway between seats (in a church, train, plane). isle: an island.</p> <p>aloud: out loud. allowed: permitted.</p> <p>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>).</p> <p>altar: a table-like piece of furniture in a church. alter: to change.</p> <p>bridal: to do with a bride at a wedding. bridle: reins etc. for controlling a horse.</p>	<p>10. prophesy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. aisle 2. isle 3. aloud 4. allowed 5. affect 6. effect 7. altar 8. alter 9. bridal 10. bridle
15	Homophones and other words that are often confused	<p>cereal: made from grain (e.g. breakfast cereal). 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). 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>ascent: the act of ascending (going up). assent: to agree/agreement (verb and noun).</p> <p>descent: the act of descending (going down). 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) dessert: (stress on second syllable) a sweet course after the main course of a meal.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. cereal 2. serial 3. compliment 4. complement 5. ascent 6. assent 7. descent 8. dissent 9. desert 10. dessert
16	Homophones and other words that are often confused	<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>) draught: a current of air.</p> <p>farther: further father: a male parent</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. draft 2. draught 3. farther 4. father 5. guessed 6. guest 7. heard 8. herd

		<p>guessed: past tense of the verb <i>guess</i></p> <p>guest: visitor</p> <p>heard: past tense of the verb <i>hear</i></p> <p>herd: a group of animals</p> <p>led: past tense of the verb <i>lead</i></p> <p>lead: present tense of that verb, or else the metal which is very heavy (<i>as heavy as lead</i>)</p>	<p>7. tea</p> <p>10. lead</p>
17	Homophones and other words that are often confused	<p>morning: before noon</p> <p>mourning: grieving for someone who has died</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>1. morning</p> <p>2. mourning</p> <p>3. past</p> <p>4. passed</p> <p>5. precede</p> <p>6. proceed</p> <p>7. principal</p> <p>8. principle</p> <p>9. profit</p> <p>10. prophet</p>
18	Homophones and other words that are often confused	<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>	<p>1. stationary</p> <p>2. stationery</p> <p>3. steal</p> <p>4. steel</p> <p>5. wary</p> <p>6. weary</p> <p>7. who's</p> <p>8. whose</p> <p>9. definitely</p> <p>10. defiantly</p>