

Overview of Spelling Bees Coverage

Dfe guidance for years 3 and 4

Statutory Requirements	Rules and Guidance (non-statutory)	Spelling Pattern	Set G Wk No.	Set H Wk No.
Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable	If the last syllable of a word is stressed and ends with one consonant letter which has just one vowel letter before it, the final consonant letter is doubled before any ending beginning with a vowel letter is added. The consonant letter is not doubled if the syllable is unstressed.	Doubled consonants when adding ed, ing and er suffixes	1	1
		Single consonants when adding ed, ing and er suffixes	2	2
The /ɪ/ sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words	These words should be learnt as needed.	Y as an 'i' sound	3	3
The /ʌ/ sound spelt ou	These words should be learnt as needed.	Ou words making a U sound	4	4
More prefixes	Most prefixes are added to the beginning of root words without any changes in spelling, but see in- below.	'un' prefix	5	5
	Like un- , the prefixes dis- and mis- have negative meanings.	Dis prefix	6	6
		Mis prefix	7	
	The prefix in- can mean both 'not' and 'in'/'into'. In the words given here it means 'not'.	In prefix	13	13
	Before a root word starting with l , in- becomes il- .	Il prefix		26
	Before a root word starting with m or p , in- becomes im- .	Im prefix		7
	Before a root word starting with r , in- becomes ir- .	Ir prefix		
	re- means 'again' or 'back'.	Re prefix	8	8
	sub- means 'under'.	Sub prefix	9	
inter- means 'between' or 'among'.	Inter prefix			
super- means 'above'.	Super prefix		9	

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	anti- means 'against'.	Anti prefix		
	auto- means 'self' or 'own'.	Auto prefix		
The suffix –ation	The suffix -ation is added to verbs to form nouns. The rules already learnt still apply.	Ation suffix	10	10
The suffix –ly	The suffix -ly is added to an adjective to form an adverb. The rules already learnt still apply. The suffix -ly starts with a consonant letter, so it is added straight on to most root words.	Ly suffix for nouns	11	11
	(1) If the root word ends in –y with a consonant letter before it, the y is changed to i , but only if the root word has more than one syllable. (2) If the root word ends with -le , the -le is changed to -ly . (3) If the root word ends with -ic , -ally is added rather than just -ly , except in the word <i>publicly</i> . (4) The words <i>truly, duly, wholly</i>	Ly suffix for adjectives	12	12
Words with endings sounding like /ʒə/ or /tʃə/	The ending sounding like /ʒə/ is always spelt -sure .	Sure suffix	14	
	The ending sounding like /tʃə/ is often spelt -ture , but check that the word is not a root word ending in (t)ch with an er ending – e.g. <i>teacher, catcher, richer, stretcher</i> .	Ture suffix	15	15
Endings which sound like /ʒən/	If the ending sounds like /ʒən/, it is spelt as -sion .	Sion suffix	16 and 17	
The suffix –ous	Sometimes the root word is obvious and the usual rules apply for adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters. Sometimes there is no obvious root word.	Ous suffix – root words does not change	18	16

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	<p>-our is changed to -or before -ous is added.</p> <p>A final 'e' of the root word must be kept if the /dʒ/ sound of 'g' is to be kept.</p> <p>If there is an /i:/ sound before the -ous ending, it is usually spelt as i, but a few words have e.</p>	Ous suffix – root words does not change		18
Endings which sound like /ʃən/, spelt –tion, –sion, –ssion, –cian	Strictly speaking, the suffixes are -ion and -ian . Clues about whether to put t , s , ss or c before these suffixes often come from the last letter or letters of the root word.	Tion suffix	19, 20 and 21	19, 20 and 21
	-tion is the most common spelling. It is used if the root word ends in t or te .			
	-ssion is used if the root word ends in ss or -mit .	Sion suffix	25	25
	-sion is used if the root word ends in d or se .	Ssion suffix		17
	-cian is used if the root word ends in c or cs .			
Words with the /k/ sound spelt ch (Greek in origin)		Ch words making a k sound	22	23
Words with the /ʃ/ sound spelt ch (mostly French in origin)		Ch words making an s sound	23	
Words ending with the /g/ sound spelt –gue and the /k/ sound spelt –que (French in origin)		Gue and que siffix		22
Words with the /s/ sound spelt sc (Latin in origin)	In the Latin words from which these words come, the Romans probably pronounced the c and the k as two sounds rather than one – /s/ /k/.	Sc making a s sound		24
Words with the /eɪ/ sound spelt ei, eigh, or ey		Ei and ey sounds	24	
Homophones and near-homophones		Homophones and homonyms 1	27, 28 and 29	27, 28 and 29
		Homophones and		

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		homonyms 2		
Keywords	peculiar, perhaps, popular arrive, believe, bicycle, island, knowledge, lean, question, recent, regular, eight, eighth, enough		30	30
	disappear, early, earth, opposite, ordinary, particular, busy, business, calendar, various, weight, woman, increase, important, interest		31	31
	medicine, mention, minute, describe, different, difficult potatoes, pressure, probably, breath, breathe, build separate, special, straight		32	32
	grammar, group, guard, although, thought, through, February, forward, fruit, promise, purpose, quarter, address, answer, appear		33	33
	caught, centre, century, length, library, material, strange, strength, suppose, consider, continue, decide, position, possession, possible		34	34
	guide, heard, heart, certain, circle, complete, extreme, famous, favourite, surprise, therefore, though, occasion, occasionally, often,		35	35
	accidentally, actual. actually, reign, remember, sentence, natural, naughty, notice, height, history, imagine, exercise, experience, experiment		36	36