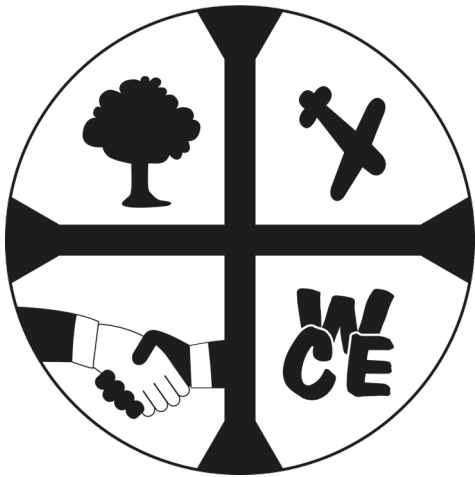


# KS2

# Spelling

# Rules



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## Definitions

- Consonant:** The 21 letters of the alphabet that aren't vowels are consonants: b,c,d,f,g,h,j,k,l,m,n,p,q,r,s,t,v,x,y,z
- Prefix:** Letters added to the start of a root word to change its meaning.
- Stressed:** This is the part of the word that you say loudest, e.g. super, begin, forgive.
- Suffix:** Letters added to the end of a root word to change its meaning or tense.
- Syllable:** Parts of a word. Each part contains a vowel sound. e.g. in-for-ma-tion, sy-ca-more.
- Vowel:** The letters a, e, i, o and u are vowels.
- Vowel Sounds:** There are two types of vowel sounds:  
Short Vowel Sounds: like 'a' in cat and 'e' in bet.  
Long Vowel Sounds: like 'a' in day and 'o' in boat.

## Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
un-	negative/opposite	unhappy, undo
dis-	negative/opposite	disappoint, disagree
mis-	negative/opposite	misbehave, mislead
in-	'not' or 'in/into'	inactive, incorrect
il-	'not' for words starting with 'l'	illegal, illegible
im-	'not' for words starting with 'm' or 'p'	immature, impossible
ir-	'not' for words starting with 'r'	irregular, irresponsible
re-	'again' or 'back'	redo, reappear, return
sub-	'under'	submarine, submerge
inter-	'between' or 'among'	interact, international
super-	'above'	supermarket, superman
anti-	'against'	anticlockwise, antiseptic
auto-	'self' or 'own'	autobiography, autograph

## Suffix—Double Letter?

If you want to add a suffix that starts with a vowel (e.g. ing, ed, er, ous) then you need to look at the end of the root word.

If you looking at a short word, follow the **1:1:1 rule**:

*1 syllable word ends with 1 vowel+1 consonant*

If this is true, then you double the last letter!

TIP: This is a short vowel sound

run	running
stop	stopping
put	putting

We never  
double 'w', 'x' or  
'y'

For longer words, if the last syllable is stressed (so you say it louder) and it is a vowel + consonant ending (e.g. et, in, er) then you double the last letter.

forget	forgetting
begin	beginner
prefer	preferred

garden	gardening
limit	limiting

If the last syllable isn't stressed, then you don't double the last letter.

For all of the word endings you are about to learn: if it starts with a vowel, follow these rules!

Look at page 10 about the -ous ending.  
Sometimes they just love to break the rules!

## -fer—Double Letter?

More on double consonants. This time it's what to do if the root word ends in -fer. This time you need to think about the word **AFTER** the suffix has been added. Is the 'fer' part stressed? If so, then it needs a **double r**.

Stressed 'fer'	Unstressed 'fer'
referring	reference
referred	referee
preferring	preference
transferring	transference

## -tial and -cial

If the word ending comes after a vowel, use -cial; if it comes after a consonant, use -tial

-cial	-tial
official	partial
special	confidential
artificial	essential

**Exceptions:** initial

financial, commercial, provincial (based on finance, commerce and province—use the vowel rule, but replace the 'e')

## -ation

If you want to turn a verb into a noun, you can often add -ation to it:

Verb	Noun
inform	information
adore	adoration
sense	sensation
prepare	preparation

**Did you see?**  
What happens  
if the verb  
ends in an 'e'?

## -ant, -ance/-ancy, -ent, -ence/-ency

You can use the -ation rule to help you work out other word endings. There are two groups of word endings here:

-ant, -ance/-ancy

-ent, -ence/-ency

If a word can be written with an -ation word ending, it will usually belong in the first group. If the word has a soft 'c', soft 'g', 'qu' or 'e' sound it can belong in the second group:

-ation	-ant, -ance/-ancy	'c', 'g', 'qu', 'e': -ent, -ence/-ency
observation	observance	innocence
expectation	expectant	decency
hesitation	hesitancy	confident
toleration	tolerance	frequency

There are lots of exceptions to this! Learn them.

## -able/-ably and -ible/-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:

Root word	-ation word	-able	-ably
adore	adoration	adorable	adorably
apply	application	applicable	applicably
consider	consideration	considerable	considerably

If the -able ending is added to a word ending in -ce or -ge, the e after the c or g must be kept.

Root Word	-able/ably
change	changeably
notice	noticeable

Root Word	-able/ably
depend	dependable
comfort	comfortably
understand	understandably
reason	reasonable

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 -ible ending is common if a complete root word can't be heard before it.

-ible	-ibly
possible	possibly
horrible	horribly
visible	visibly

## -ly adverbs

This time you can turn an adjective into an adverb by adding the suffix 'ly'.

Adjective	Adverb
sad	sadly
usual	usually
final	finally
comical	comically

### Did you see?

Usually you just add 'ly' but look at the exceptions below.

If the root word ends in a 'y', change it to an 'i'.

Adjective	Adverb
happy	happily
angry	angrily

Adjective	Adverb
gentle	gently
simple	simply

If the root word ends in a 'le', then change it to 'ly'.

If the root word ends in a 'ic' use 'ally' instead!

Adjective	Adverb
basic	basically
dramatic	dramatically

## -ous

If the root word is obvious, then follow the rules shown on page 5 (this suffix starts with a vowel!). Examples:

Root Word	Ending
poison	poisonous
danger	dangerous
mountain	mountainous

If the root word ends in -our then you change it to -or:

Root Word	Ending
humour	humorous
glamour	glamorous
vigour	vigorous

If the root word ends in 'e', remove it unless it is part of a 'g' sound:

Root Word	Ending
fame	famous
courage	courageous
outrage	outrageous

If there is an 'i' sound at the end of the root word it is usually an 'i' (but is sometimes an 'e'!):

serious, obvious, curious, hideous, spontaneous, courteous

**Finally, if there is no obvious root word, just add -ous!**

## -tion, -sion, -ssion, –cian

These word endings all sound the same, and it just depends on what letters the root word ends with:

<b>-te or –t</b>  <b>-TION</b>	invent	invention
	inject	injection
	hesitate	hesitation
	complete	completion

<b>-ss or –mit</b>  <b>-SSION</b>	express	expression
	discuss	discussion
	permit	permission
	admit	admission

<b>-d or –se</b>  <b>-SION</b>	expand	expansion
	extend	extension
	comprehend	comprehension
	tense	tension

<b>-c or –cs</b>  <b>-CIAN</b>	magic	magician
	electric	electrician
	politics	politician
	mathematics	mathematician

## -sure and –ture

These two are pretty similar. Basically, say the word. If it sounds like it's got a 'sh' sound in it, then you are probably going to use –sure. If it's got a 't' sound, then it's probably a –ture. Take a look:

'sh' sound	't' sound
measure	creature
treasure	furniture
pleasure	picture
enclosure	nature

## -cious and –tious

Very simple rule here. If the root word ends in –ce then use –cious, otherwise use –tious:

Root Word	-cious
vice	vicious
grace	gracious
space	spacious
malice	malicious

Root Word	-tious
ambition	ambitious
caution	cautious
infect	infectious
fiction	fictitious

**Exception:** anxious

## i before e except after c

There are a lot of exceptions to this rule, but the main thing to listen for is if you are trying to get an 'ee' sound. If you are and it comes immediately after a 'c', then use 'ei':

**deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling**

**Common Exceptions:** protein, caffeine, seize, either, neither

## ough words

This is just a set of words that you have to learn. There is no rule for it! They don't even sound the same either (but I have grouped them on their sound)

**ought, bought, thought, nought, brought, fought**

**rough, tough, enough**

**cough**

**though, although, dough**

**through**

**thorough, borough**

**plough, bough**

## When 'y' Sounds Like 'i'

You just have to learn these! Here are some, can you think of more?

**myth, gym, Egypt, pyramid, mystery**

## When 'ou' Sounds Like 'u'

You just have to learn these! Here are some, can you think of more?

**young, touch, double, trouble, country**

# Words From Other Languages

English uses lots of words 'borrowed' from other languages. This means that they don't follow our usual spelling rules: you just have to learn them!

## **When 'ch' sounds like 'k' (Greek)**

scheme, chorus, chemist, echo, character

## **When 'ch' sounds like 'sh' (French)**

chef, chalet, machine, brochure

## **When 'g' is spelt 'gue' (French)**

league, tongue

## **When 'k' is spelt 'que' (French)**

antique, unique

## **When 's' is spelt 'sc' (Latin)**

science, scene, discipline, fascinate, crescent

## **When 'ay' is spelt 'ei', 'eigh' or 'ey' (Various)**

vein, weigh, eight, neighbour, they, obey