

Year 1 Spelling Work

In Year 1, your child will be working on spelling words using the following sounds, rules and patterns:

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance		Example words	
The sounds /f/, /l/, /s/, /z/ and /k/ spelt ff, ll, ss, zz and ck	The /f/, /l/, /s/, /z/ and /k/ sounds are usually spelt as ff , ll , ss , zz and ck if they come straight after a single vowel letter in short words. Exceptions: if, pal, us, bus, yes.	off puff huff cuff cliff sniff snuff stuff well bell	all fall call back luck kick sock lock shock stock chess	buzz fuzz fizz frizz jazz miss kiss hiss less mess dress
The /ŋ/ sound spelt n before k			bank thank think ink pink hunk dunk	link wink honk sunk tank stink
Division of words into syllables	Each syllable is like a 'beat' in the spoken word. Words of more than one syllable often have an unstressed syllable in which the vowel sound is unclear.		pocket rabbit carrot cobweb magnet basket bitten	thunder sunset picnic goblin button hotdog cotton
Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance		Example words	
-tch	The /tʃ/ sound is usually spelt as tch if it comes straight after a single vowel letter. Exceptions: rich, which, much, such.		catch fetch kitchen ditch latch match witch	notch hutch itch pitch patch notch watch
The /v/ sound at the end of words	English words hardly ever end with the letter v , so if a word ends with a /v/ sound, the letter e usually needs to be added after the 'v'.		have live give love	dove above glove
Adding s and es to words (plural of nouns and the third person singular of verbs)	If the ending sounds like /s/ or /z/, it is spelt as -s . If the ending sounds like /ɪz/ and forms an extra syllable or 'beat' in the word, it is spelt as -es .		cats dogs spends rocks thanks	bags catches matches boxes foxes

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance	Example words	
Adding the endings –ing, –ed and –er to verbs where no change is needed to the root word	<p>–ing and –er always add an extra syllable to the word and –ed sometimes does.</p> <p>The past tense of some verbs may sound as if it ends in /ɪd/ (extra syllable), /d/ or /t/ (no extra syllable), but all these endings are spelt –ed. If the verb ends in two consonant letters (the same or different), the ending is simply added on.</p>	balls hunting hunted hunter buzzing buzzed buzzer adding added asking asked ending	jumping jumped jumper running runner playing player played clipped clipping ended
Adding –er and –est to adjectives where no change is needed to the root word	As with verbs (see above), if the adjective ends in two consonant letters (the same or different), the ending is simply added on.	grander grandest fresher freshest faster fastest kinder kindest	quicker quickest lower lowest older oldest harder hardest

Vowel digraphs and trigraphs

Some may already be known, depending on the programmes used in Reception, but some will be new.

Vowel digraphs and trigraphs	Rules and guidance	Example words		
ai, oi	The digraphs ai and oi are virtually never used at the end of English words.	rain wait train paid afraid fail tail sail	jail oil join coin point soil spoil boil	
ay, oy	ay and oy are used for those sounds at the end of words and at the end of syllables.	day play say way stay may pray sway clay	pay stay boy toy joy soy enjoy annoy	
a-e		made came same fame name tame blame shame game	cake fake take lake bake fade safe late	
e-e		these theme complete		
i-e		five ride like hike lime mine	time side fine line ride hide	nine pine life shine wide
o-e		home those woke slope rope	hope hole pole stole bone	
u-e	Both the /u:/ and /ju:/ ('oo' and 'yoo') sounds can be spelt as u-e .	June rule rude use tube tune	cute cube fume use fuse	

Vowel digraphs and trigraphs	Rules and guidance	Example words		
ar		car bar jar far tar start	arm garden star art barn yarn	dark harp hard lard park park
ee		see bee free feel heel peel	feed tree green meet week	sheep sweep beep been green
ea (/i:/)		sea dream meat each read	neat heat seat cheat	beak weak eat lead
ea (/ɛ/)		head bread meant instead read		deaf steady dead heavy
er (/ɜ:/)		(stressed sound): her term verb person		herd jerk perch
er (/ə/)		(unstressed <i>schwa</i> sound): better under summer		sister bitter burger winter
ir		girl bird shirt first	stir girl birth fir	first firm shirt third
ur		turn hurt church hurt fur purr		burst Thursday burn curl nurse surf

Vowel digraphs and trigraphs	Rules and guidance	Example words		
oo (/u:/)	Very few words end with the letters oo , although the few that do are often words that primary children in year 1 will encounter, for example, <i>zoo</i>	food pool moon zoo moo soon spoon root	hoot tool fool cool doom boost choose roost	
oo (/ʊ/)		book took foot wood good look	book hook cook crook soot wool	
oa	The digraph oa is very rare at the end of an English word.	boat coat road coach goal float	toast soap soak oak foam loaf	
oe		toe goes	hoe Joe	
ou	The only common English word ending in ou is <i>you</i> .	mouth around sound loud proud round pound	found mouse house count shout out about	
ow (/aʊ/ ow (/əʊ/ ue ew	Both the /u:/ and /ju:/ ('oo' and 'yoo') sounds can be spelt as u-e , ue and ew . If words end in the /oo/ sound, ue and ew are more common spellings than oo .	now how brown down town own blow	snow grow show blue clue true rescue	Tuesday new few grew flew drew threw
ie (/aɪ/)		lie tie pie die	cried tried dried fried	
ie (/i:/)		chief field thief piece ceiling brief		

Vowel digraphs and trigraphs	Rules and guidance		Example words	
igh			high night light bright right sight	tight high sigh fright thigh
or		for short born horse morning horn thorn torn story	corn for cork fork born cord lord ford form	
ore			more score before wore	shore horse store snore
aw			saw paw law raw draw hawk	dawn fawn yawn crawl shawl
au			author August dinosaur astronaut	audio sauce Paul pause
air			air fair pair stair	hair chair fairy dairy
ear			dear hear beard near year	ear rear spear tear
ear (/ɛə/)			bear pear wear sweat	
are (/ɛə/)			bare dare care share scared	rare fare spare square stare

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)	
Words ending –y (/i:/ or /ɪ/)		very happy funny party family city baby body	fly lorry berry poppy spy try copy
New consonant spellings ph and wh	The /f/ sound is not usually spelt as ph in short everyday words (e.g. <i>fat, fill, fun</i>).	dolphin alphabet phonics elephant phone photo graph	when where which wheel while why which whale whip
Using k for the /k/ sound	The /k/ sound is spelt as k rather than as c before e, i and y .	Kent sketch kit skin frisky	king kiss kill keep
Adding the prefix – un	The prefix un– is added to the beginning of a word without any change to the spelling of the root word.	unhappy undo unload unfair unlock	undone unable unfit unkind unzip
Compound words	Compound words are two words joined together. Each part of the longer word is spelt as it would be if it were on its own.	football playground farmyard bedroom blackberry teacup	homework lampshade teapot seaside handbag inside