

Year Four Spellings: aligned to 2014 curriculum

spelling	Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Examples	Homo-	
Revision of work from years 1 and 2: Pay special attention to the rules for adding suffixes.					
Suffixes: two or more syllables	double consonant	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.	forgetting beginning	
				forgotten	
				beginner prefer	
				preferred	
	single consonant		The consonant letter is not doubled if the syllable is unstressed.	gardening limiting	
				limitation	
gardener					
limited					
P r e f i x e s	sub-	Most prefixes are added to the beginning of root words without any changes in spelling, but see in- below.	sub- means 'under'.	subdivide subheading submarine submerge subspecies	
	inter		inter- means 'between' or 'among'.	interaction intercede interfere interim interject interlude intermediate international intervene intercity interact interrupt	
	super		super- means 'above'.	supervision supersonic superman supermarket superstar superfan superglue superfast	
	anti		anti- means 'against'.	antifreeze antibody anticlockwise anti-virus antibiotic antiseptic anticlockwise antisocial	
	auto		auto- means 'self' or 'own'.	autograph autobiography autograph autobiography automatic autopilot autopsy automobile	
	in-		The prefix in- can mean both 'not' and 'in'/'into'. In the words given here it means 'not'.	inaccessible inaccurate inactive inadequate inarticulate inattentive inaudible incapable incomplete inconsiderate inconvenient incorrect incredible indecent indefinite independent indigestion inedible inefficient inexcusable inexpensive insignificant insincere insoluble invisible involuntary inexcusable indestructible invincible inaccurately inconsiderately indecently insensitively insignificant insincerely	
il-	Before a root word starting with l, in- becomes il	illegal illegible illiterate illogical illegitimate			
im-	Before a root word starting with m or p, in- becomes im-	imbalance immature immeasurable immobile immoral immortal immovable impartial impassable impatient imperceptible imperfect impermanent impermeable imperturbable impervious implausible impolite important impossible impractical imprecise improbable improper			

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	ir-		Before a root word starting with r, in-becomes ir-.	irrational irregular irresistible irresponsible irreversible irrelevant irritated irrational irresponsible irrevocable irreverent Irrelevant irreversible irrecoverable irradiation irascible irrigable irreparable irremovable	
	-ation	The suffix –ation	The suffix –ation is added to verbs to form nouns. The rules already learnt still apply.	information adoration sensation preparation admiration investigation frustration liberation animation operation narration quotation elation rotation levitation relation dictation formation deviation restoration	
Suffix -ly	ic to ally	The suffix –ly The suffix –ly is added to an adjective to form an adverb. The rules already learnt still apply.	(3) If the root word ends with –ic, –ally is added rather than just –ly, except in the word publicly.	automatically critically logically magically mechanically medically musically physically	
	odd		(4) The words truly, duly, wholly.	truly duly wholly	
Rules for -ous	our to or	The suffix –ous	–our is changed to –or before –ous is added.	vigorous humorous glamorous armorous endeavorous harborous honorous	
	geous		A final ‘e’ must be kept if the /dʒ/ sound of ‘g’ is to be kept.	courageous outrageous advantageous gorgeous	
	ious		If there is an /i:/ sound before the –ous ending, it is usually spelt as i,	various anxious conscientious conscious delicious furious glorious gracious infections luscious luxurious mysterious obvious previous rebellious scrumptious serious surreptitious suspicious tedious victorious suspicious precious conscious delicious obvious	
	eous		but a few words have e.	hideous spontaneous courteous hideous miscellaneous nauseous righteous simultaneous	
	tion	Endings which sound like /ʃən/, spelt –tion, –sion, –ssion, –cian	Sometimes the root word is obvious and the usual rules apply for adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters.	completion operation situation relation imagination organisation ambition position revolution solution fiction introduction caution description	
	tion	Strictly speaking, the suffixes are –ion and –ian.	–tion is the most common spelling. It is used if the root word ends in t or te.	invention injection action hesitation translation pollution attraction affection correction construction option education	
	sion	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.	–sion is used if the root word ends in d or se. Exceptions: attend – attention, intend – intention.	expansion extension comprehension tension intentions ascension	
	ssion		–ssion is used if the root word ends in ss or –mit.	admission aggression depression discussion expression impression mission oppression possession procession profession progression succession suppression	
	cian		–cian is used if the root word ends in c or cs.	optician politician musician electrician mathematician	

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f: ph	Not in 2014 Curriculum		agoraphobia arachnophobia cacophony claustrophobia hydrophobia paragraph pharaoh pharmacist pharynx phenomenon phlegm phobia photosensitive photosynthesis physical physicist physiotherapy symphony xenophobia		
,	irr plural	Possessive apostrophe with plural words	(Note: singular proper nouns ending in an s use the 's suffix e.g. Cyprus's population)	children's men's mice's child's tooth's foot's sheep's women's people's boys'dogs'	
		Homophones or near-homophones	accept/except, affect/effect, ball/bawl, berry/bury, brake/break, fair/fare, grate/great, groan/grown, here/hear, heel/heal/he'll, knot/not, mail/male, main/mane, meat/meet, medal/meddle, missed/mist, peace/piece, plain/plane, rain/rein/reign, scene/seen, weather/whether, whose/who's		
Word List for years Three and Four					
<p>accident(ally) actual(ly) address answer appear arrive believe bicycle breath breathe build busy/business calendar caught centre century certain circle complete consider continue decide describe different difficult disappear early earth eight/eighth enough exercise experience experiment extreme famous favourite February forward(s)fruit grammar group guard guide heard heart height history imagine increase important interest island knowledge learn length library material medicine mention minute natural naughty notice occasion(ally) often opposite ordinary particular peculiar perhaps popular position possess(ion) possible potatoes pressure probably promise purpose quarter question recent regular reign remember sentence separate special straight strange strength suppose surprise therefore though/although thought through various weight woman/women</p>					

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Teachers should continue to emphasise to pupils the relationships between sounds and letters, even when the relationships are unusual. Once root words are learnt in this way, longer words can be spelt correctly, if the rules and guidelines for adding prefixes and suffixes are also known.

Examples:

business: once busy is learnt, with due attention to the unusual spelling of the /i/ sound as 'u', business can then be spelt as busy + ness, with the y of busy changed to i according to the rule.

disappear: the root word appear contains sounds which can be spelt in more than one way so it needs to be learnt, but the prefix dis- is then simply added to appear.

Understanding the relationships between words can also help with spelling.

Examples:

bicycle is cycle (from the Greek for wheel) with bi- (meaning two) before it.

medicine is related to medical so the /s/ sound is spelt as c.

opposite is related to oppose, so the schwa sound in opposite is spelt as o.