|  | Content Description | Guidance | Examples | Spelling Shed Stage |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | The sounds /f/, /l/, /s/, /z/ and/k/ spelt ff, II, ss, zz and ck | The $/ f /, / l /, / s /, / z /$ and $/ k /$ sounds are usually spelt as $\mathrm{ff}, \mathrm{II}, \mathrm{ss}, \mathrm{zz}$ and ck if they come straight after a single vowel letter in short words. Exceptions: if, pal, us, bus, yes. | off, well, miss, buzz, back | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Stage } 1 \text { - Step } 1 \\ & \text { Stage } 1 \text { - Step } 2 \\ & \text { Stage } 1 \text { - Step } 3 \\ & \text { Stage } 1 \text { - Step } 4 \\ & \text { Stage } 1 \text { - Step } 5 \end{aligned}$ |
| 1 | The / $\eta$ / sound spelt n before k |  | bank, think, honk, sunk | Stage 1 - Step 6 |
| 1 | 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, thunder, sunset |  |
| 1 | -tch | The / $\dagger \delta$ / sound is usually spelt as tch if it comes straight after a single vowel letter. Exceptions: rich, which, much, such. | catch, fetch, kitchen, notch, hutch | Stage 1 - Step 7 |
| 1 | The $/ v /$ sound at the end of words | English words hardly ever end with the letter $v$, so if a word ends with a $/ \mathrm{v} /$ sound, the letter e usually needs to be added after the ' v '. | have, live, give | Stage 1 - Step 8 |
| 1 | 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 /iz/ and forms an extra syllable or 'beat' in the word, it is spelt as es. | cats, dogs, spends, rocks, thanks, catches | Stage 1 - Step 9 |


| 1 | Adding the endings -ing, -ed and -er to verbs where no change is needed to the root word | -ing and -er always add an extra syllable to the word and -ed sometimes does. The past tense of some verbs may sound as if it ends in /Id/ (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. | hunting, hunted, hunter, buzzing, buzzed, buzzer, jumping, jumped, jumper | Stage 1 - Step 10 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 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, quicker, quickest | Stage 1 - Step 11 |
| 1 | Words ending -y (/i:/ or /I/) |  | very, happy, funny, party, family |  |
| 1 | New consonant spellings ph and wh | The / $f$ / sound is not usually spelt as ph in short everyday words (e.g. fat, fill, fun). | dolphin, alphabet, phonics, elephant when, where, which, wheel, while | Stage 1 - Step 40 |
| 1 | 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 |  |
| 1 | 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 |  |
| 1 | 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 |  |


| 1 | Common exception words | Pupils' attention should be drawn to the grapheme-phoneme correspondences that do and do not fit in with what has been taught so far. | the, a, do, to, today, of, said, says, are, were, was, is, his, has, I, you, your, they, be, he, me, she, we, no, go, so, by, my, here, there, where, love, come, some, one, once, ask, friend, school, put, push, pull, full, house, our - and/or others, according to the programme used |  |
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|  | Vowel digraphs / trigraphs |  |  |  |
| 1 | ai, oi | The digraphs ai and oi are virtually never used at the end of English words. | rain, wait, train, paid, afraid oil, join, coin, point, soil | Stage 1 - Step 12 |
| 1 | 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 boy, toy, enjoy, annoy | Stage 1 - Step 13 |
| 1 | a-e |  | made, came, same, take, safe | Stage 1 - Step 14 |
| 1 | e-e |  | these, theme, complete | Stage 1 - Step 15 |
| 1 | i-e |  | five, ride, like, time, side | Stage 1 - Step 16 |
| 1 | --e |  | home, those, woke, hope, hole | Stage 1 - Step 17 |
| 1 | u-e | Both the /u:/ and /ju:/ ('oo' and 'yoo') sounds can be spelt as u-e. | June, rule, rude, use, tube, tune | Stage 1 - Step 18 |
| 1 | ar |  | car, start, park, arm, garden | Stage 1 - Step 19 |
| 1 | ee |  | see, tree, green, meet, week | Stage 1 - Step 20 |
| 1 | ea (/i:/) |  | sea, dream, meat, each, read (present tense) | Stage 1 - Step 21 |
| 1 | ea (/ $/$ /) |  | head, bread, meant, instead, read (past tense) | Stage 1 - Step 22 |
| 1 | er (/3:/) |  | (stressed sound): her, term, verb, person | Stage 1 - Step 23 |


| 1 | er (/a/) |  | (unstressed schwa sound): better, <br> under, summer, winter, sister | Stage 1-Step 24 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | ir |  | girl, bird, shirt, first, third <br> turn, hurt, church, burst, Thursday <br> food, pool, moon, zoo, soon | Stage 1-Step 25 |
| 1 | ur | Stage 1-Step 25 |  |  |
| 1 | oo (/u:/) | Very few words end with the letters <br> oo, although the few that do are <br> often words that primary children in <br> year 1 will encounter, for example, <br> zoo | Step 26 |  |
| 1 | oo (/v/) | oa | The digraph oa is very rare at the <br> end of an English word. | boat, coat, road, coach, goal |


| 1 | are (/ $\varepsilon ə /$ ) |  | bare, dare, care, share, scared | Stage 1 - Step 39 |
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|  |  | Year 2 |  |  |
| 2 | The $/ \mathrm{d}_{3} /$ sound spelt as ge and dge at the end of words, and sometimes spelt as $g$ elsewhere in words before e, i and $y$ | The letter $j$ is never used for the $/ d_{3} /$ sound at the end of English words. <br> At the end of a word, the $/ d_{3} /$ sound is spelt-dge straight after the /ce/, $/ \varepsilon /, / \mathrm{I} / \mathrm{l} / \mathrm{m} /, / \mathrm{L} /$ and $/ \mathrm{v} /$ sounds (sometimes called 'short' vowels). After all other sounds, whether vowels or consonants, the /d3/ sound is spelt as -ge at the end of a word. In other positions in words, the /d3/ sound is often (but not always) spelt as $g$ before $e, i$, and $y$. The $/ d_{3} /$ sound is always spelt as $j$ before $a, o$ and $u$. | badge, edge, bridge, dodge, fudge <br> age, huge, change, charge, bulge, village <br> gem, giant, magic, giraffe, energy jacket, jar, jog, join, adjust | Stage 2 - Step 1 <br> Stage 2 - Step 2 <br> Stage 2 - Step 3 |
| 2 | The/s/ sound spelt $c$ before $e, i$ and $y$ |  | race, ice, cell, city, fancy | Stage 2 - Step 4 |
| 2 | The $/ n /$ sound spelt kn and (less often) gn at the beginning of words | The ' $k$ ' and ' $g$ ' at the beginning of these words was sounded hundreds of years ago. | knock, know, knee, gnat, gnaw | Stage 2 - Step 5 |
| 2 | The /r/ sound spelt wr at the beginning of words | This spelling probably also reflects an old pronunciation. | write, written, wrote, wrong, wrap | Stage 2 - Step 7 |
| 2 | The /l/ or /al/ sound spelt -le at the end of words | The -le spelling is the most common spelling for this sound at the end of words. | table, apple, bottle, little, middle | Stage 2 - Step 8 |


| 2 | The /I/ or /al/ sound spelt-el at the end of words | The -el spelling is much less common than-le. <br> The -el spelling is used after $m, n, r$, $s, v, w$ and more often than not after $s$. | camel, tunnel, squirrel, travel, towel, tinsel | Stage 2 - Step 9 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | The /l/ or /al/ sound spelt -al at the end of words | Not many nouns end in -al, but many adjectives do. | metal, pedal, capital, hospital, animal | Stage 2 - Step 10 |
| 2 | Words ending-il | There are not many of these words. | pencil, fossil, nostril | Stage 2 - Step 11 |
| 2 | The /aı/ sound spelt -y at the end of words | This is by far the most common spelling for this sound at the end of words. | cry, fly, dry, try, reply, July | Stage 2 - Step 13 |
| 2 | Adding -es to nouns and verbs ending in -y | The y is changed to i before-es is added. | flies, tries, replies, copies, babies, carries | Stage 2 - Step 14 |
| 2 | Adding -ed, -ing, er and -est to a root word ending in -y with a consonant before it | The $y$ is changed to i before -ed, -er and -est are added, but not before ing as this would result in ii. The only ordinary words with ii are skiing and taxiing. | copied, copier, happier, happiest, cried, replied ..but copying, crying, replying | Stage 2 - Step 15 <br> Stage 2 - Step 16 <br> Stage 2 - Step 17 |
| 2 | Adding the endings -ing, -ed, -er, -es $\dagger$ and -y to words ending in -e with a consonant before it | The -e at the end of the root word is dropped before -ing, -ed, -er, -est, -y or any other suffix beginning with a vowel letter is added. Exception: being. | hiking, hiked, hiker, nicer, nicest, shiny | Stage 2 - Step 19 <br> Stage 2 - Step 20 <br> Stage 2 - Step 21 |


| 2 | Adding -ing, -ed, -er, -est and -y to words of one syllable ending in a single consonant letter after a single vowel letter | The last consonant letter of the root word is doubled to keep the $/ \propto /, / \varepsilon /$, $/ \mathrm{I} /, / \mathrm{v} /$ and $/ \mathrm{L} /$ sound (i.e. to keep the vowel 'short'). <br> Exception: The letter ' $x$ ' is never doubled: mixing, mixed, boxer, sixes. | patting, patted, humming, hummed, dropping, dropped, sadder, saddest, fatter, fattest, runner, runny | Stage 2 - Step 19 <br> Stage 2 - Step 20 <br> Stage 2 - Step 21 |
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| 2 | The / s :/ sound spelt a before I and II | The /o:/ sound ('or') is usually spelt as a before I and II. | all, ball, call, walk, talk, always | Stage 2 - Step 22 |
| 2 | The / $/$ / sound spelt 0 |  | other, mother, brother, nothing, Monday | Stage 2 - Step 23 |
| 2 | The /i:/ sound spelt -ey | The plural of these words is formed by the addition of $-s$ (donkeys, monkeys, etc.). | key, donkey, monkey, chimney, valley | Stage 2 - Step 25 |
| 2 | The / $\mathrm{p} /$ sound spelt $a$ after $w$ and qu | $a$ is the most common spelling for the /v/ (hot') sound after $w$ and qu. | want, watch, wander, quantity, squash | Stage 2 - Step 26 |
| 2 | The /3:/ sound spelt or after w | There are not many of these words. | word, work, worm, world, worth | Stage 2 - Step 27 |
| 2 | The /o:/ sound spelt ar after w | There are not many of these words. | war, warm, towards | Stage 2 - Step 27 |
| 2 | The/3/ sound spelt $s$ |  | television, treasure, usual | Stage 2 - Step 28 |


| 2 | The suffixes -ment, -ness, -ful ,-less and -ly | If a suffix starts with a consonant letter, it is added straight on to most root words without any change to the last letter of those words. Exceptions: <br> (1) argument <br> (2) root words ending in -y with a consonant before it but only if the root word has more than one syllable. | enjoyment, sadness, careful, playful, hopeless, plainness (plain + ness), badly <br> merriment, happiness, plentiful, penniless, happily | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Stage } 2 \text { - Step } 29 \\ & \text { Stage } 2 \text { - Step } 30 \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | Contractions | In contractions, the apostrophe shows where a letter or letters would be if the words were written in full (e.g. can't - cannot). <br> It's means it is (e.g. It's raining) or sometimes it has (e.g. It's been raining), but it's is never used for the possessive. | can't, didn't, hasn't, couldn't, it's, I'll | Stage 2 - Step 34 |
| 2 | The possessive apostrophe <br> (singular nouns) |  | Megan's, Ravi's, the girl's, the child's, the man's |  |
| 2 | Words ending in tion |  | station, fiction, motion, nation, section | Stage 2 - Step 33 |
| 2 | Homophones and near-homophones | It is important to know the difference in meaning between homophones. | there/their/they're, here/hear, quite/quiet, see/sea, bare/bear, one/won, sun/son, to/too/two, be/bee, blue/blew, night/knight | Stage 2 - Step 31 <br> Stage 2 - Step 32 |

$\left.\begin{array}{|l|l|l|l|l|}\hline 2 & \begin{array}{l}\text { Common exception } \\ \text { words }\end{array} & \begin{array}{l}\text { Some words are exceptions in some } \\ \text { accents but not in others - e.g. past, } \\ \text { last, fast, path and bath are not } \\ \text { exceptions in accents where the a in } \\ \text { these words is pronounced /ce/, as in } \\ \text { cat. } \\ \text { Great, break and steak are the only } \\ \text { common words where the /ei/ sound } \\ \text { is spelt ea. }\end{array} & \begin{array}{l}\text { door, floor, poor, because, find, kind, } \\ \text { mind, behind, child, children*, wild, } \\ \text { limb, most, only, both, old, cold, gold, } \\ \text { hold, told, every, everybody, even, } \\ \text { great, break, steak, pretty, beautiful, } \\ \text { after, fast, last, past, father, class, } \\ \text { grass, pass, plant, path, bath, hour, } \\ \text { move, prove, improve, sure, sugar, eye, } \\ \text { could, should, would, who, whole, any, } \\ \text { many, clothes, busy, people, water, } \\ \text { again, half, money, Mr, Mrs, parents, } \\ \text { Christmas - and/or others according to } \\ \text { programme used. } \\ \text { Note: 'children' is not an exception to } \\ \text { what has been taught so far but is } \\ \text { included because of its relationship } \\ \text { with 'child'. }\end{array} & \text { Stage Extra }\end{array}\right\}$

| $3 / 4$ | The / $\mathrm{I} /$ sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words | These words should be learnt as needed. | myth, gym, Egypt, pyramid, mystery | Stage 3 - Step 3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $3 / 4$ | The $/ \Lambda /$ sound spelt ou | These words should be learnt as needed. | young, touch, double, trouble, country | Stage 3-Step 2 |
| $3 / 4$ | More prefixes | Most prefixes are added to the beginning of root words without any changes in spelling, but see in- below. Like un-, the prefixes dis- and mishave negative meanings. <br> The prefix in- can mean both 'not' and 'in'/'into'. In the words given here it means 'not'. <br> Before a root word starting with I, in-becomes il. <br> Before a root word starting with $m$ or p , in- becomes im-. Before a root word starting with $r$, in-becomes ir-. <br> re- means 'again' or 'back'. sub-means 'under'. <br> inter- means 'between' or 'among'. <br> super- means 'above'. <br> anti- means 'against'. <br> auto- means 'self' or 'own'. | dis-: disappoint, disagree, disobey <br> mis-: misbehave, mislead, misspell (mis <br> + spell) <br> in-: inactive, incorrect <br> il-: illegal, illegible <br> im-: immature, immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect <br> ir-: irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible <br> re-: redo, refresh, return, reappear, <br> redecorate <br> sub-: subdivide, subheading, submarine, <br> submerge <br> inter-: interact, intercity, <br> international, interrelated (inter + <br> related) <br> super-: supermarket, superman, <br> superstar <br> anti-: antiseptic, anti-clockwise, <br> antisocial <br> auto-: autobiography, autograph | Stage 3 - Step 7 <br> Stage 3 - Step 8 <br> Stage 3 - Step 9 <br> Stage 4 - Step 2 <br> Stage 4 - Step 3 <br> Stage 4 - Step 4 <br> Stage 4 - Step 5 <br> Stage 4 - Step 29 <br> Stage 4 - Step 30 |
| $3 / 4$ | The suffix-ation | The suffix-ation is added to verbs to form nouns. The rules already learnt still apply. | information, adoration, sensation, preparation, admiration | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Stage } 4 \text { - Step } 7 \\ & \text { Stage } 4 \text { - Step } 8 \end{aligned}$ |


| $3 / 4$ | The suffix -ly | The suffix-ly is added to an adjective to form an adverb. The rules already learnt still apply. <br> The suffix -ly starts with a consonant letter, so it is added straight on to most root words. <br> Exceptions: <br> (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. <br> (2) If the root word ends with -le, the -le is changed to -ly. <br> (3) If the root word ends with -ic, -ally is added rather than just-ly, except in the word publicly. <br> (4) The words truly, duly, wholly. | sadly, completely, usually (usual + ly), finally (final + ly), comically (comical + ly) <br> happily, angrily <br> gently, simply, humbly, nobly <br> basically, frantically, dramatically | Stage 3-Step 16 <br> Stage 3 - Step 21 <br> Stage 3 - Step 22 <br> Stage 3 - Step 23 <br> Stage 4 - Step 9 <br> Stage 4 - Step 10 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $3 / 4$ | Words with endings sounding like/zo/ or /tja/ | The ending sounding like / $32 /$ is always spelt-sure. <br> The ending sounding like $/+\int_{2} /$ is often spelt-ture, but check that the word is not a root word ending in ( $\dagger$ )ch with an er ending - e.g. teacher, catcher, richer, stretcher. | measure, treasure, pleasure, enclosure creature, furniture, picture, nature, adventure | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Stage } 3 \text { - Step } 4 \\ & \text { Stage } 3 \text { - Step } 5 \end{aligned}$ |
| $3 / 4$ | Endings which sound like/zən/ | If the ending sounds like $/ 30 \mathrm{n} /$, it is spelt as -sion. | division, invasion, confusion, decision, collision, television |  |


| $3 / 4$ | 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. <br> -our is changed to -or before -ous is added. <br> A final ' $e$ ' of the root word must be kept if the /ds/ sound of ' $g$ ' is to be kept. <br> If there is an /i:/ sound before the -ous ending, it is usually spelt as i, but a few words have e. | poisonous, dangerous, mountainous, famous, various <br> tremendous, enormous, jealous humorous, glamorous, vigorous courageous, outrageous serious, obvious, curious hideous, spontaneous, courteous | Stage 4 - Step 14 <br> Stage 4 - Step 15 <br> Stage 4 - Step 17 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $3 / 4$ | Endings which sound like / $\mathrm{Jan} /$, spelt tion, -sion, -ssion, cian | Strictly speaking, the suffixes are ion and -ian. Clues about whether to put $t, s, s s$ or $c$ before these suffixes often come from the last letter or letters of the root word. -tion is the most common spelling. It is used if the root word ends in $t$ or te. <br> -ssion is used if the root word ends in ss or -mit. <br> -sion is used if the root word ends in d or se. <br> Exceptions: attend-attention, intend - intention. <br> -cian is used if the root word ends in c or cs. | invention, injection, action, hesitation, completion <br> expression, discussion, confession, permission, admission <br> expansion, extension, comprehension, tension <br> musician, electrician, magician, politician, mathematician | Stage 4 - Step 13 <br> Stage 4 - Step 20 <br> Stage 4 - Step 21 <br> Stage 4 - Step 22 |


| $3 / 4$ | Words with the /k/ <br> sound spelt ch <br> (Greek in origin) |  | scheme, chorus, chemist, echo, <br> character | Stage 3-Step 26 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $3 / 4$ | Words with the /s/ <br> sound spelt ch <br> (mostly French in <br> origin) |  | chef, chalet, machine, brochure | Stage 4-Step 11 |
| $3 / 4$ | Words ending with <br> the /g/ sound spelt <br> -gue and the /k/ <br> sound spelt -que <br> (French in origin) |  | league, tongue, antique, unique | Stage 3-Step 27 |
| $3 / 4$ | Words with the /s/ <br> sound spelt sc <br> (Latin in origin) | In the Latin words from which these <br> words come, the Romans probably <br> pronounced the c and the k as two <br> sounds rather than one -/s//k/. | science, scene, discipline, fascinate, <br> crescent | Stage 3-Step 28 |
| $3 / 4$ | Words with the <br> leI/ sound spelt ei, <br> eigh, or ey | vein, weigh, eight, neighbour, they, <br> obey | Stage 3-Step 14 <br> Stage 3-Step 15 |  |
| $3 / 4$ | Possessive <br> apostrophe with <br> plural words | girls', boys', babies', children's, men's, <br> mice's <br> (Note: singular proper nouns ending in <br> an s use the 's suffix e.g. Cyprus's <br> population) |  |  |


| $3 / 4$ | Homophones and 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 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Stage } 3 \text { - Step } 17 \\ & \text { Stage } 4 \text { - Step } 1 \\ & \text { Stage } 4 \text { - Step } 25 \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Year 5 / 6 |  |  |
| $5 / 6$ | Endings which sound like / Jas/ spelt cious or -tious | Not many common words end like this. <br> If the root word ends in -ce, the / $/ /$ sound is usually spelt as $c$ - e.g. vice vicious, grace - gracious, space spacious, malice - malicious. Exception: anxious. | vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious <br> ambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious | Stage 5 - Step 1 <br> Stage 5 - Step 2 |
| $5 / 6$ | Endings which sound like /jal/ | -cial is common after a vowel letter and-tial after a consonant letter, but there are some exceptions. Exceptions: initial, financial, commercial, provincial (the spelling of the last three is clearly related to finance, commerce and province). | official, special, artificial partial, confidential, essential | Stage 5 - Step 3 <br> Stage 5 -Step 4 <br> Stage 5 - Step 5 <br> Stage 6 - Step 22 <br> Stage 6 - Step 23 |


| $5 / 6$ | Words ending in ant, <br> -ance/-ancy, <br> -ent, <br> -ence/-ency | Use -ant and -ance/-ancy if there is a related word with a /ce/ or /ei/ sound in the right position; -ation endings are often a clue. <br> Use -ent and -ence/-ency after soft $c(/ s /$ sound $)$, soft $g$ (/d3/sound) and $q u$, or if there is a related word with a clear $/ \varepsilon /$ sound in the right position. <br> There are many words, however, where the above guidance does not help. These words just have to be learnt. | observant, observance, (observation), expectant (expectation), hesitant, hesitancy (hesitation), tolerant, tolerance (toleration), substance (substantial) <br> innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, confident, confidence (confidential) <br> assistant, assistance, obedient, obedience, independent, independence | Stage 5 - Step 6 <br> Stage 5-Step 7 <br> Stage 5 - Step 8 <br> Stage 5 - Step 9 |
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| $5 / 6$ | Words ending in able and -ible <br> 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. <br> 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 cap and gap) before the a of the -able ending. <br> 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 first five examples opposite are obvious; in reliable, the complete word rely is heard, but the y changes to i in accordance with the rule. <br> 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 can be heard (e.g. sensible). | adorable/adorably (adoration), <br> applicable/applicably (application), <br> considerable/considerably <br> (consideration), tolerable/tolerably <br> (toleration) <br> changeable, noticeable, forcible, legible <br> dependable, comfortable, understandable, reasonable, enjoyable, reliable <br> possible/possibly, horrible/horribly, terrible/terribly, visible/visibly, incredible/incredibly, sensible/sensibly | Stage 5-Step 10 <br> Stage 5-Step 11 <br> Stage 5 - Step 13 <br> Stage 6-Step 25 <br> Stage 6 - Step 26 <br> Stage 6 - Step 27 |
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| $5 / 6$ | Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in -fer | The $r$ is doubled if the -fer is still stressed when the ending is added. <br> The $r$ is not doubled if the -fer is no longer stressed. | referring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, transferring, transferred <br> reference, referee, preference, transference | Stage 5 - Step 15 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $5 / 6$ | 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. | co-ordinate, re-enter, co-operate, co-own |  |
| $5 / 6$ | 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:/. <br> Exceptions: protein, caffeine, seize (and either and neither if pronounced with an initial /i:/ sound). | deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling | Stage 5 - Step 20 |
| $5 / 6$ | 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. | ought, bought, thought, nought, brought, fought <br> rough, tough, enough <br> cough <br> though, although, dough <br> through <br> thorough, borough <br> plough, bough | Stage 5 - Step 21 <br> Stage 5 - Step 22 |

## Spelling Progression Document

| $5 / 6$ | Words with 'silent' <br> letters (i.e. letters <br> whose presence <br> cannot be predicted <br> from the <br> pronunciation of the <br> word) | Some letters which are no longer <br> sounded used to be sounded <br> hundreds of years ago: e.g. in knight, <br> there was a /k/ sound before the <br> /n/, and the gh used to represent <br> the sound that 'ch' now represents in <br> the Scottish word loch. | doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, <br> knight | Stage 5-Step 16 <br> Stage 5-Step 17 |
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| $5 / 6$ | Homophones and other words that are often confused | In the pairs of words opposite, nouns end -ce and verbs end -se. Advice and advise provide a useful clue as the word advise (verb) is pronounced with a/z/ sound - which could not be spelt c. <br> More examples: aisle: a gangway between seats (in a church, train, plane). <br> isle: an island. <br> aloud: out loud. <br> allowed: permitted. <br> affect: usually a verb (e.g. The weather may affect our plans). <br> effect: usually a noun (e.g. It may have an effect on our plans). If a verb, it means 'bring about' (e.g. He will effect changes in the running of the business). <br> altar: a table-like piece of furniture in a church. <br> alter: to change. <br> ascent: the act of ascending (going up). <br> assent: to agree/agreement (verb and noun). <br> bridal: to do with a bride at a wedding. <br> bridle: reins etc. for controlling a | advice/advise <br> device/devise <br> licence/license <br> practice/practise <br> prophecy/prophesy <br> farther: further <br> father: a male parent <br> guessed: past tense of the verb guess <br> guest: visitor <br> heard: past tense of the verb hear <br> herd: a group of animals <br> led: past tense of the verb lead lead: present tense of that verb, or else the metal which is very heavy (as heavy as lead) <br> morning: before noon <br> mourning: grieving for someone who has died <br> past: noun or adjective referring to a previous time (e.g. In the past) or preposition or adverb showing place (e.g. he walked past me) passed: past tense of the verb 'pass' (e.g. I passed him in the road) precede: go in front of or before proceed: go on principal: adjective - most important (e.g. principal ballerina) noun important person (e.g. principal of a | Stage 5 - Step 25 <br> Stage 5 - Step 26 <br> Stage 5 - Step 27 <br> Stage 5 - Step 28 <br> Stage 5 - Step 29 |
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