

# Year 4 Spelling – Rules, Guidance and Examples

Wk	spelling		Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Examples
1	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
2		single consonant		The consonant letter is not doubled if the syllable is unstressed.	gardening limiting
					limitation
					gardener
					limited
3	Prefixes	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
4		inter		inter- means 'between' or 'among'.	interaction intercede interfere interim interject interlude intermediate international intervene intercity interact interrupt
5		super		super- means 'above'.	supervision supersonic superman supermarket superstar superfan superglue superfast
6		anti		anti- means 'against'.	antifreeze antibody anticlockwise anti-virus antibiotic antiseptic anticlockwise antisocial
7		auto		auto- means 'self' or 'own'.	autograph autobiography autograph autobiography automatic autopilot autopsy automobile
8		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
9	il-	Before a root word starting with l, in- becomes il	illegal illegible illiterate illogical illegitimate		

# Year 4 Spelling – Rules, Guidance and Examples

10		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
11		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
12	-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
13	Suffix -ly	ic to ally	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
14		odd		(4) The words truly, duly, wholly.	truly duly wholly
15	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
16		geous		A final ‘e’ must be kept if the /dʒ/ sound of ‘g’ is to be kept.	courageous outrageous advantageous gorgeous
17		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
18		eous		but a few words have e.	hideous spontaneous courteous hideous miscellaneous nauseous righteous simultaneous
19	tion		Endings which sound like /ʃən/, spelt –tion, –sion, –ssion, –cian Strictly speaking, the suffixes are –ion and –ian.	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
20	tion			–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
21	sion			–sion is used if the root word ends in d or se. Exceptions: attend – attention, intend – intention.	expansion extension comprehension tension intentions ascension

# Year 4 Spelling – Rules, Guidance and Examples

22	<b>ssion</b>		the root word.	–ssion is used if the root word ends in ss or –mit.	admission aggression dépression discussion expression impression mission oppression possession procession profession progression succession suppression
23	<b>cian</b>			–cian is used if the root word ends in c or cs.	optician politician musician electrician mathematician
24	<b>f: ph</b>		<b>Not in 2014 Curriculum</b>		agoraphobia arachnophobia cacophony claustrophobia hydrophobia paragraph pharaoh pharmacist pharynx phenomenon phlegm phobia photosensitive photosynthesis physical physicist physiotherapy symphony xenophobia
25	,	<b>irr plural</b>	<b>Possessive apostrophe with plural words</b>	(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'
			<b>Homophones or near-homophones</b>		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