

# Year 2 Spelling – Rules, Guidance and Examples

Week	spelling	Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	examples
2	dge	<b>The /dʒ/ sound spelt as ge and dge at the end of words, and sometimes spelt as g elsewhere in words before e, i and y</b>	At the end of a word, the /dʒ/ sound is spelt –dge straight after the /æ/, /ɛ/, /ɪ/, /ɒ/, /ʊ/ and /ʌ/ sounds (sometimes called ‘short’ vowels).	badge badger edge hedge ledge sledge bridge ridge lodger budget fudge judge nudge trudge sludge smudge
3	dge: ge		After all other sounds, whether vowels or consonants, the /dʒ/ sound is spelt as –ge at the end of a word.	age cage page sage damage change bulge village strange
4	dge: g		In other positions in words, the /dʒ/ sound is often (but not always) spelt as g before e, i, and y.	gem giant magic giraffe energy ginger general genius gentle geometry gym danger angel digest emergency energy engineer energy engineer giant imagine intelligent legend register stranger tragic
5	dge: j		The letter j is never used for the /dʒ/ (“dge”) sound at the end of English words.	jacket jar jog join adjust joke juggle enjoy joint jerseys jockeys journeys injuries jellies banjos jewellery journalist January subject
6	s: c	<b>The /s/ sound spelt c before e, i and y</b>		race ice cell city fancy dice ice nice price rice slice spice twice rejoice cinema circle circuit circular circus citizen city cease cellar cement cent centipede centre centurion century certain cycle cyclist cyclone cygnet cymbals face palace place race space surface trace dice ice nice price rice slice spice twice chance dance pencil decide recite
7	n: kn	<b>The /n/ sound spelt kn and (less often) gn at the beginning of words</b>	The ‘k’ and ‘g’ at the beginning of these words was sounded hundreds of years ago.	knee kneel knew knickers knight knit knives knob knock knot know knuckle knife
8	n: gn			gnarled gnash gnat gnaw gnomes sign
9	r: wr	<b>The /r/ sound spelt wr at the beginning of words</b>	This spelling probably also reflects an old pronunciation	wrap wrapper wreck wrestle wriggle wrinkle wrist write wrong wriggly wrinkly
10	l: le	<b>The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt –le at the end of words</b>	The –le spelling is the most common spelling for this sound at the end of words.	bubble scribble cuddle middle muddle puddle paddle riddle saddle juggle smuggle apple battle bottle kettle little dazzle drizzle puzzle bible bundle candle dawdle handle needle noodle poodle chuckle prickle tickle uncle angle ankle grumble able cable fable sable table sample simple
11	l: el	<b>/l/ or /əl/ sound spelt –el at the end of words</b>	The –el spelling is much less common than –le. 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 marvel excel rebel quarrel angel label cancel
12	l: al	<b>The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt –al at the end of words</b>	Not many nouns end in –al, but many adjectives do.	accidental comical critical electrical eventual exceptional fatal final individual logical magical medical musical national natural normal occasional original ornamental personal practical regional sensational several traditional physical racial social special official financial commercial artificial torrential confidential essential influential initial partial circumstantial illogical irrational illegal impartial immoral immortal unusual impractical al racial social special physical official financial exceptional artificial commercial torrential confidential essential influential initial partial

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13	I: il	Words ending –il	There are not many of these words	spoil pencil fossil nostril devil	
14	igh: y end	The /aɪ/ sound spelt –y at the end of words	This is by far the most common spelling for this sound at the end of words.	by cry dry fly fry my sky sly sty try apply deny rely reply supply	
15	Plural y – ies Nouns	Adding –es to nouns and verbs ending in –y	The y is changed to i before –es is added.	armies berried babies centuries cities countries diaries dictionaries enemies fairies factories families hobbies injuries jellies ladies libraries lollies lorries memories arties photocopies ponies puppies	
16	Plural y – ies			applies bullies cries denies fries lies relies replies qualities satisfies spies supplies tries carries hurries marries scurries tidies varies worries	
17	y to ied	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.  past tense comparative superlative	applied bullied cried denied fried lied relied replied qualified satisfied spied supplied tried carried hurried married scurried tidied varied worried	
18	y to ier			angrier busier clumsier chillier cosier crazier dirtier dustier funnier happier healthier heavier hungrier lazier lonelier lovelier luckier merrier nastier noisier prettier rustier sillier tidier	
19	y to iest			angriest busiest clumsiest chilliest cosiest craziest dirtiest dustiest funniest happiest healthiest heaviest hungriest laziest loneliest loveliest luckiest merriest nastiest noisiest prettiest rustiest silliest tidiest	
20	y+ing			crying drying frying prying trying applying carrying denying hurrying marrying replying relying scurrying supplying tidying varying	
21	e to ing	Adding the endings –ing, –ed, –er, –est 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. The exception is being.  <b>Exceptions:</b> <b>jokey smiley</b>	closing driving hoping joking liking lining making naming poking saving scraping shaking sliding smiling smoking stroking taking timing tuning using waving bouncing calculating celebrating competing composing damaging dancing deciding decreasing exploring imagining including increasing measuring pausing preserving puncturing traipsing whistling wrestling wriggling writing	
22	e to ed			amazed closed lined named saved smiled tuned used waved baked hoped joked liked shaped smoked fated hated mated stated disused grumbled surprised included juggled displeased replaced disabled misbehaved refused decoded stroked dawdled served	
23	e to er			closer nicer driver hoper joker liker liner maker namer poker saver scraper shaker slider smiler smoker stroker taker timer tuner user waver	
24	e to est			closest nicest	
25	e to ey			smoky wave – wavy shake – shaky shine - shiny	
26	Doubling Consonant			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 /æ/, /ɛ/, /ɪ/, /ɒ/ and /ʌ/ sound (i.e. to keep the vowel ‘short’).  <b>Exception: The letter ‘x’ is never doubled: mixing, mixed, boxer, sixes.</b>
27		ed	chatted chopped clapped dragged dripped dropped fitted grabbed hopped hugged patted permitted pinned planned popped rubbed skipped slapped slipped stepped stopped trapped wrapped		
28		er	fatter planner shredder winner spinner skipper swimmer beginner thinner fitter robber shopper chopper hopper runner drummer rubber cutter bigger hotter		

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29		est		superlative	biggest thinnest fattest fittest hottest
30		y			runny sunny funny
31	or: a		<b>The /ɔ:/ sound spelt a before l and ll</b>	The /ɔ:/ sound (“or”) is usually spelt as a before l and ll.	all ball call walk talk always small tall wall stalk almighty almost alone along already also altogether always
32	u: o		<b>The /ʌ/ sound spelt o</b>		other mother brother nothing Monday monkey
33	plural ey		<b>The /i:/ sound spelt –ey</b>	The plural of these words is formed by the addition of –s (donkeys, monkeys, etc.).	trolley turkey valley donkey jersey jockey journey key monkey chimney abbey
34	o: a		<b>The /ɒ/ sound spelt a after w and qu</b>	a is the most common spelling for the /ɒ/ (“hot”) sound after w and qu.	wad wallet wand wand wander want was wash wasp watch swab swallow swamp swan swap swat squabble quality quantity quarter squash qualified
35	er: a		<b>The /ɜ:/ sound spelt or after w</b>	There are not many of these words.	word work worm world worth earthworm
36	or: a		<b>The /ɔ:/ sound spelt ar after w</b>	There are not many of these words.	war warm towards
37			<b>The /ʒ/ sound spelt s</b>	-sion comes in to Y3/4?	television, treasure, usual
38	ment		<b>suffixes –ment, –ness, –ful, –less and ‘-ly’</b>	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: (1) argument (2) root words ending in –y with a consonant before it but only if the root word has more than one syllable. (3) root words ending in –e with an l before it changes to –ly.	achievement advertisement amusement arrangement employment encouragement enjoyment environment excitement government management movement ornament replacement statement
39	ness	braveness childishness darkness fairness foolishness kindness lateness suddenness wickedness willingness emptiness happiness heaviness hungriness laziness loneliness tidiness			
40	ful	boastful careful faithful forgetful handful grateful harmful hateful helpful hopeful mouthful painful playful powerful spiteful thankful useful beautiful delightful doubtful fanciful pitiful plentiful resentful respectful sorrowful successful thoughtful truthful wonderful			
41	less	ageless careless endless fearless helpless homeless hopeless lifeless painless powerless seedless shameless smokeless speechless thankless timeless useless colourless thoughtless			
42	ly	blindly bravely correctly fairly hardly kindly lively lonely loudly proudly sadly shyly slightly slowly suddenly sweetly angrily clumsily easily happily heavily hungrily lazily luckily merrily noisily prettily readily speedily steadily wearily comfortably cuddly gently grumbly horribly miserably possibly probably simply sparkly suitably terribly visibly wriggly wrinkly			
43					<b>Contractions</b>

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44	'	<b>The possessive apostrophe (singular nouns)</b>		Simon's coat Sarah's jumper the boy's toys the girl's friend the dog's bone the computer's mouse the car's engine the man's boat the woman's bike
45	-tion	<b>Words ending in -tion</b>		action addition addiction ambition attention competition condition devotion education fiction fraction information investigation multiplication prediction question reaction reflection relation station affection caution celebration circulation composition conversation conservation description direction examination exhibition indigestion precaution prescription promotion protection quotation sensation separation subtraction ventilation vibration refraction transaction
	homo- phones	<b>Homophones and near-homophones</b>	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 air- heir aisle- isle ante- -anti- eye- I bare- bear be- bee brake- break buy- by cell- sell cent- scent cereal- serial coarse- course complement- compliment dam- damn dear- deer die- dye fair- fare fir- fur flour- flower or- four hair- hare heal- heel hear- here him- hymn hole- whole hour- our idle- idol in- inn knight- night knot- not know- no made- maid mail- male meat- meet morning- mourning none- nun oar- or one- won pair- pear peace- piece plain- plane poor- pour pray- prey principal- principle profit- prophet real- reel right- write root- route sail- sale sea- see seam- seem sight- site sew- so shore- sure sole –soul some- sum son- sun stair- stare stationary- stationery steal- steel suite- sweet tail- tale their- there- they're to- too- two toe- tow waist- waste wait- weight way- weigh weak- week wear- where
	<b>Red Words</b>	<b>Common exception words</b>	Some words are exceptions in some accents but not in others – e.g. past, last, fast, path and bath are not exceptions in accents where the a in these words is pronounced /æ/, as in cat. Great, break and steak are the only common words where the /eɪ/ sound is spelt ea. <b>Note: 'children' is not an exception to what has been taught so far but is included because of its relationship with 'child'.</b>	door, floor, poor, because, find, kind, mind, behind, child, children*, wild, climb, most, only, both, old, cold, gold, hold, told, every, everybody, even, great, break, steak, pretty, beautiful, after, fast, last, past, father, class, grass, pass, plant, path, bath, hour, move, prove, improve, sure, sugar, eye, could, should, would, who, whole, any, many, clothes, busy, people, water, again, half, money, Mr, Mrs, parents, Christmas – and/or others according to programme used.