

LiteraSee

CONCEPTS ILLUSTRATED

er ir ur

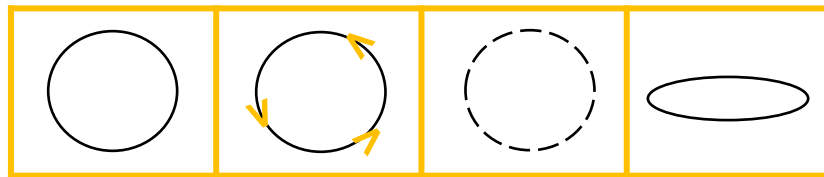
Spelling
Strategies

Creative Spelling Strategy for "er"

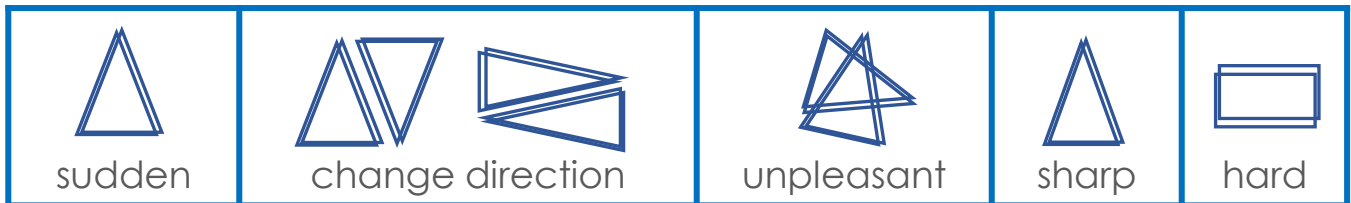
- **er** is the most common spelling of /er/ and is often found in multisyllabic words, one syllable "sophisticated" words, or as suffix |-er| (meaning compare or one who). E.g., terrific, verb, taller, teacher.



- **ir** words are usually associated with things that are circular or go around. E.g., twirl, skirt, & circle





- **ur** words can change direction (turn & curl), can be unpleasant (burp), sudden (turbo), or hard (hurdle, durable, turtle). **Ur** can also be in found the prefix **-sur** meaning above/beyond as in surprise.



Teaching Tips

1. Teach |er|, |ir|, and |ur| along with the general meanings and symbols shown above.
2. See the word lists containing /er/ sounds and their matching icons.
3. Discuss and ask students how each word may have |er|, |ir| or |ur| characteristics.
Use your imagination! E.g., girls twirl, birds chirp and fly in circles, and burgers are ground meat.
3. As a spelling strategy, encourage students to think about the meaning and similar spelling characteristics of er, ir, and ur words. Review the pictograms often.

er word examples

 most common &  sophisticated		-er suffix -er
perm	perfume	golfer
fern	pertain	harder
perch	perhaps	smaller
her	perform	smarted
term	mermaid	blender
clerk	sherbet	stronger
verb	thermos	publisher
herd	permit	longer
insert	termite	softer

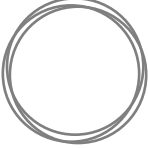
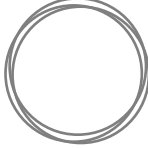
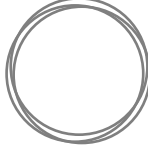
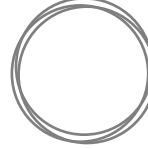
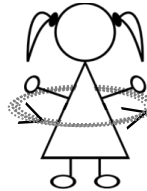



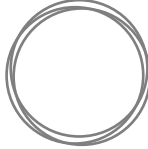
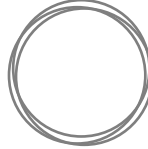
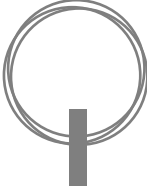

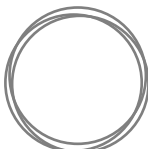

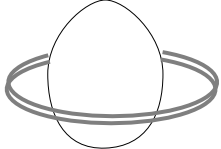




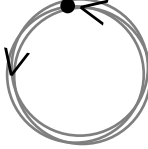



Some advanced Level Two words for spelling

nerve	serve	derive
swerve	perfect	terrific

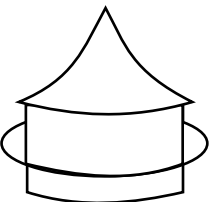
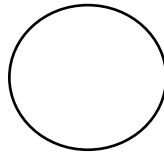
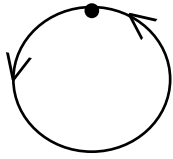
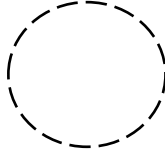
o

ir

round or goes around

 stir	 swirl	 whirl	 twirl	 girl	 skirt
 bird	 chirp	 quirk(y)	 squirm	 birch	 dirt
 flirt	 shirt	 birth	 thirst	 first	 third
 firm	 girth	 stirrup	 squirt	 sir	

Advanced words for discussion about the origin of |ir| words. LEVEL 3

 circus	 circle	 circumference	 circumstances		
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Draw the icon for ir







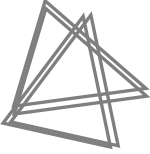

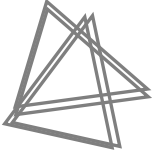
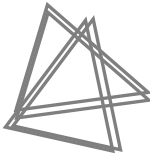
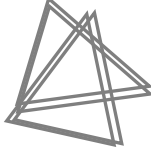
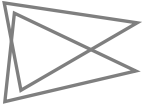
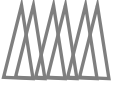
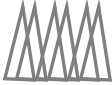


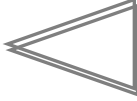
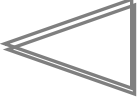
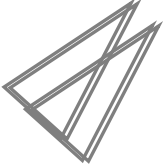


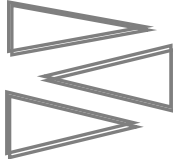

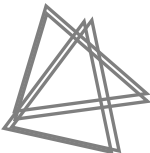
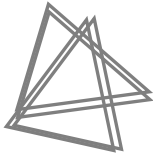


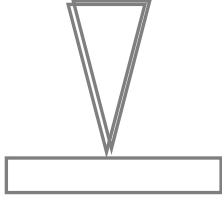
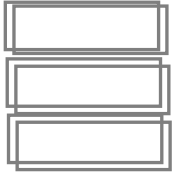
stir	swirl	whirl	twirl	skirt	girl
bird	chirp	quirk(y)	squirm	birch	dirt
flirt	shirt	birth	thirst	first	third
firm	girth	stirrup	squirt	sir	

Advanced words for discussion about the origin of ir words. LEVEL 3

<u>c</u> ircus	<u>c</u> ir <u>c</u> le	<u>c</u> ircum <u>f</u> erence	<u>c</u> ircumstance
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ur words







changes direction
or is unpleasant

					
burst	blurt	hurl	spurt	burp	curd
					
hurt	flurry	blur	murky	hurry	turkey
 (short fur)					
fur	turf	church	turret	turn	curb
(From thunder)					
Thursday	surf	curtsy	current	curl	churn
					
disturb	absurd	burn	burger	sturdy	furnish

prefix sur: above, beyond,, over	surprise	surplus	survive	surrender	surpass
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Draw the icon for ur

LEVEL 2 LESSON 14b

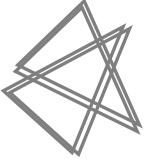
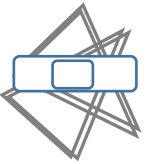
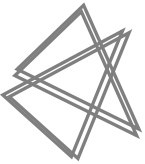
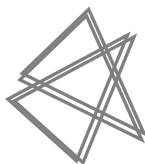
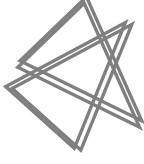

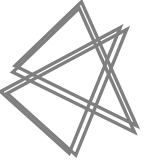

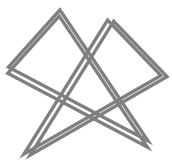


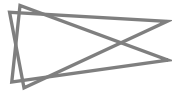


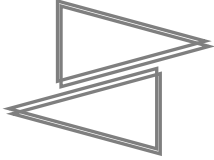
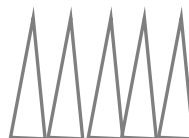




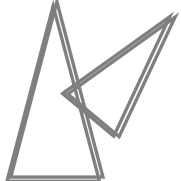




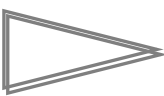
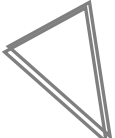



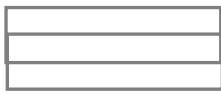

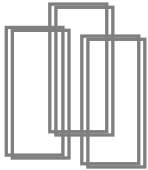

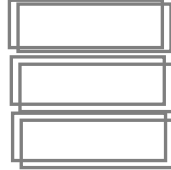




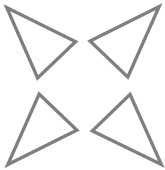
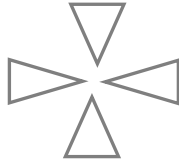

					
sudden	change direction	unpleasant	sharp	hard	hard

burst	blurt	hurl	spurt	burp	curd
hurt	flurry	blur	murky	hurry	tur <u>key</u>
fur	turf	church	turret	turn	curb
Thursday	surf	curtsy	current	curl	churn
disturb	absurd	burn	burger	sturdy	furnish

prefix sur: above, beyond, over	surprise	surplus	survive	surrender	surpass
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ur words

LEVEL 3 and up, for discussion only at Level 2

					
injure	nurse	urgent	hurricane	turbulent	turmoil
					
turpentine	burglar	burden	furnace	sulfur	turtle
				 <small>royalty only</small>	 <small>hide behind</small>
currency	cursive	disburse	jury	purple	curtain
					
purse	curfew	turnpike	turbo	burrow	yogurt
					
gurgle	purpose	curse	purchase	splurge	spurn
					
durable	hurdle	urban	rural	furniture	endure
					
surge	surgery	surface	survey	surround	surcharge

er, ir or ur ?

There are no rules to help us decide which way to spell /er/.

The following observations and generalizations represent a creative strategy:

ir words are usually associated with things that go around or are pleasant.

ur words can be linear, make sharp turns, feel spiky, go up/down, or unpleasant.

er is the most common spelling of /er/. If guessing, use /er/ especially for endings.

er	ir	ur
thunder	third	surf
barber	stir	hurt
winter	thirst	surpass*
timber	squirm	hurry
whisker	dirt	turn
chapter	birch	(wild) turkey
fender	skirmish	turf
verb	skirt	burst
pattern	first	slur
perfect	twirl	churn
clerk	chirp	slurp
pepper	bird	survive*
expert	girl	bur <u>de</u> n
butter	squirt	curb
rubber	swirl	burp
perfume	flirt	burn
mermaid	stirrup	blurry
intern	firm	absurd
pertain	swirl	burlap
perhaps	birth	surprise*
silver	shirt	sulfur
insert	smirk	disturb
pamper	thirteen	blur
tender	squirt	burp

*Prefix sur- means above or beyond.