

Age
7+

Collins

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling



Boost your word power



Collins

Grammar,
Punctuation
and Spelling



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Introduction

Collins Primary Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling has been designed to support all pupils who are studying grammar, punctuation and spelling from age 7 to 11, whether this is for exams or to revise the key building blocks of the English language.

It contains the rules and advice that will help students get to grips with these essential aspects of the English language. There are clear, easy-to-follow explanations of how grammar works, what punctuation does, and how to spell correctly. Each section – grammar, punctuation and spelling – is laid out in an open, attractive design that guides the user easily through the information provided. Dozens of examples show exactly how the rules of English work.

The final section is a dictionary list of words that pupils must know how to spell. These have been specially selected for this age group based on real-life experience from Spelling Bees conducted by Collins Dictionaries. The words are written out in full, with their word class clearly shown, along with any other forms such as plurals, comparatives and superlatives, and inflections – all of which are also written in full, making it easy for the pupil to understand. Many helpful tips on spelling are also included throughout the spelling dictionary section to make learning easier.

Collins Primary Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling is an indispensable guide to the structure and rules of English, offering clear and accessible guidance for pupils from age 7 to 11.

Explore further at www.collins.co.uk/homeworkhelp for games, activities and extra support for parents and children.

Grammar

What is grammar?

Grammar is the rules of a language that tell you how to organise words to make sentences. Think about language as a series of ‘blocks’ that you put together. There are rules about how these blocks can be joined. The blocks are:

- the word
- the phrase
- the clause
- the sentence

This book explains what these are, how they work and how you combine them to write clear and effective English.

Words

Word class

Every word in a language can be sorted into a group according to what it does within a sentence. These groups are known as word classes or parts of speech. Some words can belong to a number of different word classes. This section explains what the word classes are and what they do.

Nouns

A noun is a word that names something. In a sentence, the nouns are the words that tell you which people, places or things are involved.

There are different kinds of nouns.

Common nouns

These nouns are used to name every example of a certain type of thing. They start with a small letter.

girl

city

picture

There are three different types of common nouns.

Concrete nouns

A concrete noun is a physical object that you can actually touch:

donkey

bicycle

doughnut

Abstract nouns

An abstract noun is something that does not physically exist and so cannot be touched:

happiness

beauty

imagination

Collective nouns

A collective noun is a group or collection of things:

pack

bunch

flock

Proper nouns

These nouns are used for a particular person, place or thing. They start with a capital letter.

Andy Murray

Switzerland

River Seine

Singular and plural

The singular form of a noun is used to mean only one of a thing:

a picture

one elephant

the school

The plural form is used to mean more than one of a thing:

two pictures

ten elephants

The possessive

The possessive (which is sometimes called the possessive case) is used to show that a person or thing owns another person or thing. You add **'s** to the end of the noun that is the owner:

my mother's sister

Nick's football boots

the cat's paw

the stadium's roof

If the noun is a plural that already ends in **s**, you put an apostrophe at the end of the word:

the soldiers' uniforms

those boys' bicycles

African elephants' ears

tractors' wheels

You don't use **'s** to make a plural noun. It is only used for showing the possessive.

Adjectives

An adjective is a word that tells you something about a noun. Adjectives can describe nouns in a number of ways:

how they feel or what they are like:

a happy child

a strange boy

a joyful occasion

what they look like:

a large tree

a spotty dress

a gorgeous beach

what they sound, smell, taste or feel like:

a noisy party

a stinky cheese

a delicious cake

a hard seat

what colour they are:

a yellow bag

dark hair

green leaves

where they come from:

our German relatives

my American friend

a northern accent

what something is made from:

chocolate cake

a wooden box

a velvet scarf

Comparative adjectives and superlative adjectives

When you want to make a comparison between people or things, you need to use comparative or superlative adjectives. In the examples below, **taller** is the comparative form of **tall** and **tallest** is the superlative.

Rory is tall.

Rory is taller than his brother.

Rory is the tallest boy in his class.

Comparative

The comparative shows that a person or thing has more of a certain quality than another person or thing. In this case it is the quality of being tall.

You make the comparative form of an adjective by adding the suffix **-er** at the end.

dull + -er = duller

green + -er = greener

clever + -er = cleverer

Not all comparatives are made like this, though. If the adjective is quite a long word, you use **more** instead.

beautiful → more beautiful

eccentric → more eccentric

interesting → more interesting

Superlative

The superlative shows that a person or thing has the most of a certain quality out of a group of people or things.

You make the superlative form of an adjective by adding the suffix **-est** at the end.

dull + -est = duller

green + -est = greenest

clever + -est = cleverest

If the adjective is quite a long word, you use **most** to make the superlative.

beautiful → most beautiful

eccentric → most eccentric

interesting → most interesting

Good and bad

The adjectives **good** and **bad** don't follow the normal rules for comparative and superlative forms.

good

better

best

bad

worse

worst

There are spelling rules about adding suffixes, and you can see these on [pages 81–85](#).

Adverbs

An adverb is a word that tells you something about a verb. They describe the way in which something is done. Many adverbs end with the letters **-ly**.

Some adverbs tell you *how*:

Ella runs quickly.

The children sing loudly.

Some adverbs tell you *where*:

We live here.

The plane flew south.

Some adverbs tell you *when*:

She is going on holiday tomorrow.

Phone the police immediately.

Some adverbs tell you *how much*:

I really want to see that film.

He was completely exhausted.

Some adverbs tell you *how often*:

You never come out to play football.

My sister and I always argue about who sits in the front seat of the car.

Some adverbs go at the beginning of a sentence. These give a comment on the whole sentence:

Fortunately, it didn't rain.

Sadly, Jackie can't come on Friday.

Prepositions

A preposition is a word that is used before a noun or a pronoun to describe how things are related or connected to each other. For example, prepositions can tell you:

- where a person or thing is:

a cat in the garden

a book on the table

a sock under the bed

Other prepositions like this include:

above

beside

underneath

near

below

- the movement of something or someone:

The train came into the station.

We pushed through the crowd.

Other prepositions like this include:

around

down

up

onto

to

- they also show how things are related in time:

I haven't seen my auntie since last week.

Conjunctions

A conjunction is a word that is used to join two words or two parts of a sentence together. There are two main types of conjunction.

Co-ordinating conjunctions

A co-ordinating conjunction joins two things that are as important as each other:

I love fish and chips.

It was dry so I walked home.

You can have a biscuit or a cake.

She has neither mother nor father.

It can also show a contrast between two things:

Joe is having a birthday party but he hasn't invited me.

Subordinating conjunctions

A subordinating conjunction introduces a clause which is less important than the main part of the sentence:

The teacher was angry because the pupils would not pay attention.

Mark read his book while he waited for his mum to arrive.

I must tell you some exciting news before we get started.

Some dogs go a bit crazy when it's windy.

Pronouns

A pronoun is a word that is used in place of a noun. You use a pronoun instead of repeating the name of a person, place or thing:

Rachel lives next door to me. Rachel is in my class.
> Rachel lives next door to me. She is in my class.

That is the book I am reading just now. The book is very funny.

> That is the book I am reading just now. It is very funny.

I like to sit in the garden. The garden is very sunny.

> I like to sit in the garden. It is very sunny.

Personal pronouns

You use a personal pronoun instead of the subject or object of a sentence:

She is good at maths.

Nobody likes him.

Possessive pronouns

You use a possessive pronoun to show that something belongs to a person or thing:

We had to move out when our house was flooded.

I think the blue jacket is mine.

The dog buried its bone in the garden.

Relative pronouns

You use a relative pronoun instead of a noun to join two different parts of a sentence. The relative pronouns are **who**, **whom**, **whose**, **which** and **that**. They introduce information about a noun in an earlier part of the sentence. This noun is known as the antecedent. You use **who**, **whom** and **whose** when the antecedent is a person, and **which** and **that** when it is not a person.

who: You use **who** when the antecedent is the subject of the second clause.

I have an aunt who lives in Australia.

whom: You use **whom** when the antecedent is the object of the second clause.

It was the same man whom we had seen earlier.

whose: You use **whose** to show that something belongs to the antecedent.

Scott has a brother whose name is Jamie.

which: You use **which** when the antecedent is not a person.

We took the road which leads to the sea.

that: You use **that** when the antecedent is not a person.

George brought the sandwiches that he had made the night before.

Determiners

A determiner is a word that you put in front of a noun to show more clearly what you are talking about. There are different kinds of determiners:

Articles

The word **the** is called the definite article.

the robot

the traffic

the footballers

The word **a** is called the indefinite article.

a caravan

a giraffe

a scooter

If the word after **a** begins with a vowel, you use **an** instead:

an animal

an umbrella

an orange pencil

Other determiners

Other types of determiners give different information about the noun:

- the distance between the speaker and the thing they are talking about:

this shoe

these books

that man

those houses

- who owns the thing:

my bag

your phone

his kite

her mug

its door

our car

their garden

- how much or how many:

some sugar

much money

both girls

few people

many adults

several birds

- the exact number:

one melon

the two brothers

fifty roses

ten thousand years

- how something is shared out:

Every child got a prize.

Each runner is given a number.

Either team could win on the day.

Neither side is playing well at the moment.

Verbs

A verb is a word that tells you about an action.

Emily plays the guitar.

The children ran across the field.

We always listen to the radio in the car.

Andrew is a Scout.

Tense

The tense of a verb tells us when the action takes place.

Present tense

If the action is happening now, you use the present tense. There are two types of present tense you can use:

Simple present tense: For this you use the verb as it is, or add an **-s** at the end:

I like broccoli.

You love peas.

Max hates carrots.

We enjoy swimming.

Martin and Kate play the piano.

Progressive present tense: This is also known as the continuous present tense. For this you add the ending **-ing** to the verb and put a form of the verb **be** in front of it:

I am doing my homework.

You are annoying me.

Lara is painting a picture.

Past tense

If the action has already happened, you use the past tense. There are four types of past tense you can use:

Simple past tense: For most verbs, you add **-ed** to the end to make the simple past tense. You add **-d** if the verb already ends in **e**:

The children screamed when the lights went out.

The dog barked at the postman.

I scrambled over the wall.

Progressive past tense: This is also known as the continuous past tense. You add **-ing** to the verb and put it after **was** or **were**. You use this to talk about something that was still happening at a certain point in the past or when something else happened:

That was the summer when Jack and I were learning to ride.

Richard was cooking dinner when the fire alarm went off.

Present perfect tense: For this you use **has** or **have** with the simple past tense of the verb. You use the present perfect tense to show that an action has been completed:

Abby has finished her project on Japan.

I have baked a cake for the birthday party.

Past perfect tense: For this you use **had** with the simple past tense of the verb. You use this to show that something had been completed when something else happened:

Matthew had finished his lunch before the others had even started.

I had packed my suitcase when the taxi arrived.

Future tense

If the action has still to happen, you use the future tense. You do this by using **will** or **shall** and then the verb:

I will be there on time.

He says he will phone later today.

We shall see if that's true.

Auxiliary verbs

There are three auxiliary verbs: **be**, **have** and **do**. These are used with other verbs to make different tenses.

I was washing my hair.

The chicken had crossed the road.

I did tidy my room eventually.

Be, **have** and **do** are irregular verbs, which means that they do not follow the usual rules for making verb forms.

Be

I am happy.

You are sad.

She is tired.

We are excited.

They are late.

I was worried.

You were angry.

He was scared.

We were jealous.

They were sleepy.

He is being silly.

We have been ready for an hour.

Have

I have a cat.

You have a dog.

She has a rabbit.

We have a parrot.

They have no pets.

I had an apple.

You had an orange.

He had a pear.

We had some grapes.

They had strawberries.

Mary is having a baby.

We have had no sleep for two days.

Do

I do not like her.

You do not like him.

She does not like me.

We do not like them.

They do not like us.

I did like him.

You did like her.

She did like you.

We did like them.

They did like him.

The boys are doing their homework in their rooms.

I have done what you told me.

Modal verbs

The modal verbs are **can**, **could**, **may**, **might**, **must**, **shall**, **should**, **will**, **would** and **ought**. They are used with other verbs to add certain meanings like possibility, doubt or having to do something. Unlike all other verbs, they do not change their spellings:

I can ride a bike.

Olivia can speak Italian.

My friends can all come to my party.

I could be late so don't wait for me.

You may be right.

I might go to the library after school.

You must listen to the teacher.

Shall we take the dog for a walk?

You should clean your teeth at least twice a day.

Will you hang your jacket up?

I would love a cup of tea.

We ought to leave now.

Phrases

A phrase is a group of words which go together.

a busy street

the family pet

very good at tennis

Although a phrase makes sense, it is not a full sentence and needs more words to make it complete.

We live on a busy street.

The family pet is a tortoise called Bob.

My sister is very good at tennis.

Noun phrases

A noun phrase contains at least one noun.

a tall girl

an extremely tall girl

an extremely tall girl with piercing blue eyes

Adjective phrases

An adjective phrase contains at least one adjective.

a brown bear

a big brown bear

a big scary brown bear

Verb phrases

A verb phrase contains an auxiliary verb and sometimes an adverb.

I am enjoying the summer holiday.

He had been learning to play the piano.

She is always complaining about her teachers.

Adverb phrases

An adverb phrase tells you something about the verb. It can contain an adverb but it does not have to.

Katie tiptoed very quietly across the room.

The man shouted 'Fire!' as loudly as possible.

In the morning, the sky was clear.

Preposition phrases

A preposition phrase contains a preposition and the noun that follows it.

She shut the dogs in the kitchen.

A plastic bag full of money was lying by the side of the road.

At the back of the class, some of the boys were laughing and telling jokes.

Clauses

A clause is a group of words which contain a verb. There are two types of clauses.

Main clauses

A main clause is the heart of a sentence. It would make sense if it stood on its own. Every sentence has a main clause:

Matthew ate a cake which was covered in chocolate.

After looking carefully in both directions, Ali crossed the road.

Subordinate clauses

A subordinate clause is less important than the main clause. It would not make sense if it stood on its own because it is not a full sentence. It gives more information about the main clause:

When he had looked carefully in both directions, Ali crossed the road.

Matthew enjoyed the cake because it was covered in chocolate.

Subordinate clauses often start with **when**, **if**, **because** or **that**.

Relative clauses

A relative clause is a type of subordinate clause. It begins with a relative pronoun: **who**, **whom**, **whose**, **which** or **that**.

Robbie has a cat who likes fish.

David has one brother, whose name is Peter.

Our teacher is off sick today, which is unusual for her.

You can read more about relative pronouns on [page 14](#).

You can also write a relative clause without the relative pronoun **that** or **which**:

She has lost the book that I lent her.

She has lost the book I lent her.

That is the car which he has just bought.

That is the car he has just bought.

Sentences

A sentence is a group of words that expresses an idea or describes a situation. A sentence must have:

- a capital letter at the beginning of the first word
- a full stop, a question mark or an exclamation mark at the end
- a verb

Sentence types

A sentence can be one of four things.

Statement

This sentence tells you something. A statement usually starts with the subject of the sentence. It ends with a full stop:

Berlin is the capital of Germany.

I am going home now.

It's raining.

Question

This sentence asks for information. It begins with a questioning word like **what**, **who**, **which**, **where**, **when**, **how** or **why**. It can also begin with a verb. It ends with a question mark:

What is your name?

Have you seen my keys?

Where is Mount Everest?

Command

This sentence gives orders or instructions. You call the verb used for commands 'the imperative'. You

usually put it at the start of the sentence. It can end with a full stop or, if you want to show that something is very important, an exclamation mark:

Give me the paper.

Come over here.

Stop right there!

If you give a polite command, the verb might not be at the start of the sentence:

Please stop talking.

Exclamation

This sentence expresses a strong feeling. It ends with an exclamation mark:

What a laugh!

You're here at last!

I never want to see you again!

Sentence structure

There are different types of sentences which can be grouped by how the sentence is written.

Simple sentence

A simple sentence contains just one main clause:

Zoya threw the ball.

Today is my birthday.

Compound sentence

A compound sentence contains two or more main clauses joined by a conjunction:

Zoya threw the ball and Marion caught it.

Today is my birthday but my party is tomorrow.

Complex sentence

A complex sentence has a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses:

Zoya threw the ball to Marion, who was standing on the other side of the pitch.

Today is my birthday, although my party isn't until tomorrow, which is a pity.

Parts of the sentence

Sentences contain a number of parts.

Subject

The subject is the person or thing that does the action in a sentence. It is a noun, a noun phrase or a pronoun. It comes before the verb.

Louise fell asleep.

Dogs don't like fireworks.

The red car is parked on the other side of the road.

She threw a cushion across the room.

Verb

A sentence must have a verb or a verb phrase.

The man walks slowly up the hill.

Jessica fainted.

Adam is having a haircut.

People have lived in this place for hundreds of years.

Object

The object is the person or thing that has the action of the verb done to it. It is a noun, a noun phrase or a pronoun. It comes after the verb. Not all sentences have an object.

Kim loves chocolate.

I have lost my new green rucksack.

Are you going to ask him to the prom?

Complement

A complement is a word or phrase that tells you something about the subject of the sentence. It is a noun, a noun phrase, an adjective or an adjective phrase. Not all sentences have a complement. The verbs **be**, **become**, **feel** and **seem** need a complement.

Laura is an architect.

They became very good friends when they worked together.

The boys felt silly when they had to dress up.

She seems perfectly happy.

Adverbial

An adverbial can be an adverb, an adverb phrase, a preposition clause or a subordinate clause. It tells you something about how the action in the sentence is happening, for example when it is happening, where it is happening, how it is happening, how often it is happening or why it is happening. Not all sentences have adverbials.

Suddenly, it started to rain heavily.

Breathing quietly, Lee crept out of the room.

You probably won't notice it after a while.

I'll make a cup of tea when I've finished reading this.

An adverbial can go anywhere in a sentence:

I greatly admire your courage.

The door closed with a loud bang.

Honestly, I didn't mean to be rude to you.

When the adverbial is at the start of the sentence it is called a fronted adverbial. These are followed by a comma:

Seriously, are you wearing that?

At the end of the match, the players shook hands.

Bitterly disappointed, the home supporters left the stadium quickly.

When the cake is golden brown, take it out of the oven.

Active voice and passive voice

There are two different ways of presenting the same information in a sentence. These are the active voice and the passive voice. In the active voice, the subject of the sentence does the action:

Nina is feeding the rabbit.

| |
subject verb

The cat chased a mouse.

| |
subject verb

In the passive voice, the subject of the sentence has the action done to it:

The rabbit is being fed by Nina.

| |
subject *verb*

The mouse was chased by a cat.

| |
subject *verb*

The passive voice uses **be** with the past participle of the verb:

is being fed

was chased

It usually sounds more natural to use the active voice when you are writing, but sometimes it is good to use the passive voice if you do not know who did something or you do not want to blame someone.

The bus shelter has been vandalised.

The front door has been left open again.

Making words

English is very good at making new words from existing words. This can be done by putting words together or by adding prefixes and suffixes.

Prefixes

A prefix is a letter or group of letters that is added to the beginning of a word to make a new word. Adding a prefix to a word changes the word's meaning. When you write a prefix on its own, you put a hyphen after it, for example **un-**. When you add the prefix to a word to make a new word, you do not keep the hyphen (except in a very few cases which you can see on [pages 56–57](#)):

un- + usual = unusual

un- + cover = uncover

un- + happiness = unhappiness

The prefix **un-** means ‘not’ so when you add it to a word you give it the opposite meaning:

un- + friendly = unfriendly (not friendly)

Other prefixes that do this are **dis-**, **non-** and **in-**:

dis- + agree = disagree

non- + fiction = nonfiction

in- + expensive = inexpensive

When you put **in-** before words that begin with certain letters, the **n** changes:

- before **l**, **in-** changes to **il-**: **il- + legal = illegal**
- before **m**, **in-** changes to **im-**: **im- + modest = immodest**
- before **p**, **in-** changes to **im-**: **im- + patient = impatient**
- before **r**, **in-** changes to **ir-**: **ir- + rational = irrational**

Other prefixes that are useful to know are:

prefix	meaning	example	language it comes from
anti-	against	anticlockwise	<i>Greek</i>
pro-	in favour of	prowar	<i>Latin</i>
de-	undo or remove	defrost	<i>Latin</i>
bi-	two or twice	bimonthly	<i>Latin</i>
auto-	self	autobiography	<i>Greek</i>
ante-	before	antenatal	<i>Latin</i>
co-	together	cooperate	<i>Latin</i>
pre-	before	predate	<i>Latin</i>

re-	again	reheat	<i>Latin</i>
circum-	round or about	circumference	<i>Latin</i>
ex-	out or outside of	external	<i>Latin</i>
inter-	between	international	<i>Latin</i>
mis-	wrong or false	misbehave	<i>Old English</i>
sub-	under	subway	<i>Latin</i>
super-	larger, over or beyond	superpower	<i>Latin</i>
mini-	small	miniskirt	<i>English</i>
over-	too much	overeat	<i>English</i>
trans-	across	transmit	<i>Latin</i>
tele-	distant	television	<i>Greek</i>
ultra-	extremely	ultramodern	<i>Latin</i>
micro-	small	microcomputer	<i>Greek</i>
tri-	three	tricycle	<i>Latin</i>

Suffixes

A suffix is a letter or group of letters that is added to the end of a word to make a new word. Adding a suffix to a word changes a word’s meaning. When you write a suffix on its own, you put a hyphen in front of it, for example **-ness**. When you add the suffix to a word to make a new word, you do not keep the hyphen:

sad + -ness = sadness

There are spelling rules about adding suffixes to words. You can find these on [pages 81–85](#).

Two useful suffixes are **-ful** and **-less**. These are added to words to make adjectives. The suffix **-ful** means ‘full of’, while **-less** means ‘without’:

hope + -ful = hopeful (full of hope)

hope + -less = hopeless (without hope)

pain + -ful = painful (full of pain)

pain + -less = painless (without pain)

Here are some other suffixes that make adjectives:

suffix	meaning	example
-able	able to	readable
-al	related to	traditional
-ary	related to	revolutionary
-ible	able to	reversible
-ic	related to	rhythmic
-ish	fairly or rather	smallish
-ist	prejudiced	racist
-ive	tending to	divisive
-like	resembling	dreamlike
-ous	full of	perilous
-y	like or full of	grassy

There are some suffixes that mean ‘the state of’, ‘the condition of’ or ‘the quality of’. These make nouns:

suffix	example
-ness	blind + -ness = blindness
-ity	stupid + -ity = stupidity
-ance	accept + -ance = acceptance
-ation	legalize + -ation = legalization
-dom	bore + -dom = boredom

-ence	depend + -ence = dependence
-hood	child + -hood = childhood
-ion	elect + -ion = election
-ship	dictator + -ship = dictatorship

Other suffixes that make nouns include:

suffix	meaning	example
-er	person who does something	painter
-er	thing that does something	fastener
-er	person from a place	islander
-ant	person who does something	defendant
-ism	action or condition	criticism
-ism	prejudice	sexism
-ment	state of having	employment
-ology	study of	biology

Suffixes that make verbs include:

suffix	meaning	example
-ate	become or take on	hyphenate
-ise or -ize	change or affect	motorise
-ify	make or become	purify
-en	make or become	dampen

To make an adverb from an adjective you add the suffix **-ly**, which means ‘in this way’:

kind + -ly = kindly

proper + -ly = properly

real + -ly = really
week + -ly = weekly

Root words

A root word is a word which can stand alone and still make sense, for example **read**. You can add prefixes and suffixes to a root word in order to make new words:

read reads reading reader readable misread reread

Compound words

A compound word is one that is made from two or more root words. Lots of English words are made in this way.

girl + friend = girlfriend
soft + ware = software
after + shave = aftershave

Compound words can be written in different ways:

• as one word:

bookcase

wallpaper

outrun

skateboard

• as two words:

post office

fire engine

eye shadow

Roman Catholic

• with a hyphen:

bone-dry

one-way

face-lift

middle-of-the-road

Word families

A word family is a group of words that are related to each other because they come from the same root word.

sign signature signage signify significant signpost signal undersign
design designate

solve solver solvent soluble solution dissolve resolve

Writing good English

Once you know how sentences are made, you can start to put them together to make longer pieces of writing. A group of sentences together is called a paragraph.

Paragraphs

You start a paragraph on a new line. A paragraph contains one idea or one part of an argument. When you want to introduce another idea or another part of an argument, you start a new paragraph:

More British households have dogs than any other pets. A survey has found that 25% of homes in the UK have a dog. The labrador retriever remains the most popular dog, followed by the cocker spaniel and springer spaniel.

Cats are the next most popular pet in the country, being found in 19% of British homes. The favourite breed by far is the shorthair domesticated cat, although the Siamese, Burmese and Persian are all increasing in popularity.

If you are quoting direct speech, you start a new paragraph for each new speaker.

“Are you playing in the match after school today?” asked Nathan.

“No,” replied Simon. “I have to go to the dentist.”

If you are writing a story, each new event in the story should have its own paragraph. You do, however, need to link paragraphs to bring your writing together. This is called cohesion. If a piece of writing has cohesion then it all joins together smoothly.

Cohesion

There are a number of ways to add cohesion to your writing.

Use of tense

You need to keep your tenses consistent in a piece of work. This means that if you start off in the present tense, you keep to the present tense all the way through. If you start in the past tense, keep to the past tense.

Zack *is* nervous. He *has* to sing a solo at the school concert next week. He *is* worried that he *will* forget the words or sing out of tune. The teacher *tells* him that he *will* be fine.

Cohesive devices

These are words that connect different parts of the text. These include:

Determiners

We went to the pond to feed the ducks. They swam towards us eagerly.
(**They** links with **the ducks** in the first sentence)

I really enjoyed my school days. Those were the best days of my life.
(**Those** links with **school days**)

Pronouns

The runners are ready to go. They are waiting for the starting pistol.
(**They** links with **the runners**)

I don't like my maths teacher. He shouts a lot.
(**He** links with **my maths teacher**)

Conjunctions

I will need to save up some money before I can buy a new phone.
(**before** shows time relationship)

Please let me know when you want to go home.
(**when** shows time relationship)

Adverbs

I clean my teeth. Then I get dressed. (**Then** shows time relationship)

I get dressed. Next I make my lunch. (**Next** shows time relationship)

Connectives

Conjunctions and adverbs are also known as connectives. They connect ideas between clauses and sentences.

I am scared of horses. Nevertheless, I am going riding tomorrow.

We are moving house. Therefore, I will be changing schools.

Some other connectives are:

later

afterwards

previously

similarly

furthermore

moreover

on the other hand

in contrast

however

meanwhile

Ellipsis

Ellipsis is missing out a word or phrase that you would normally include. By doing this, you can link clauses and sentences.

**Do you like jazz? I don't like it.
> Do you like jazz? I don't.**

**Julie looked behind and she started to run.
> Julie looked behind and started to run.**

Ellipsis is also the name of a punctuation mark. You can see more about this on [page 58](#).

Ambiguity

Ambiguity is when something is not clear and could confuse the reader. For example:

The dog bit the man and he barked.

Who barked? The man or the dog?

The dog bit the man and then barked.

By removing the pronoun **he** and adding the adverb **then**, you get rid of the ambiguity.

Avoiding repetition

You use pronouns to avoid repeating nouns in a piece of writing.

My aunt lives in Rome. My aunt has lived there for twenty years. My aunt works as a translator.

> My aunt lives in Rome. She has lived there for twenty years. She works as a translator.

Expressing possibility

You can express the idea of possibility or uncertainty in two ways.

Modal verbs

You can use verbs like **may**, **might**, **could** and **should** to show that something is not certain.

We may be getting a puppy.

I might not be here when you get home.

The team could be moving to a new stadium.

Robert should be able to meet you at the station.

Adverbs

You can also use certain adverbs to show that something is not definite.

Maybe we can go next week.

Perhaps you can help me with this?

She is possibly too late to join the class now.

Types of English

The way you talk to your friends is not the same way that you talk to your head teacher. We write and speak in different ways, depending on the situation.

Informal language

This is how you write to friends or close family, for example in emails or texts:

Hey how R U? Soz i missed ur call. @ lazergame with jack n anna. It was beast! cant wait 2 go again. I'll phone u l8r. 😊

Some features of informal language:

- slang words (**beast**)
- contracted forms (**I'll**)
- abbreviations (**R U**, **soz**, **ur**, **n**)
- smileys or emoticons (😊)
- lack of punctuation (**jack**, **anna**, **cant**, **i**)
- informal greeting (**Hey**)
- short simple sentences
- simple vocabulary
- numbers or symbols (**2** for **to**, **@** for **at** or **l8r** for **later**)

Question tags

A question tag is a short question at the end of a statement. They are used to check that the listener agrees with the speaker. They are common in speech and informal writing but you should not use them in formal writing:

You've cleaned your room, haven't you?

We're not going to that, are we?

Formal language

This is the language you should use when you are writing things for school.

Dear Mrs Jenkins

I am sorry I missed your telephone call yesterday. I was out with two of my friends, Jack and Anna. We were at an attraction called Lazergame, where you chase and shoot each other with lasers. It was really good fun and I am hoping to go again soon.

I will see you at five o'clock on Friday, assuming your train is on time.

Yours sincerely, Eve

Some of the features of formal language:

- full forms (**I am, you are, I will**)
- use of capital letters (**I, Lazergame, Jack, Anna**)
- no slang (**sorry** not **soz**)
- longer, more complex sentences
- formal opening and closing (**Dear, Yours sincerely**)
- more difficult words (**attraction, assuming**)
- not using symbols instead of words

Formal and informal vocabulary

You should avoid informal and slang words in your written work, unless you are writing conversation. For example, use:

child (not **kid**)

man (not **guy**)

friend (not **pal**)

satisfactory (not **OK**)

angry (not **ballistic**)

wealthy (not **minted**)

relax (not **chill**)

impressive (not **awesome**)

very good (not **well good**)

Subjunctive

Another feature of formal language is the subjunctive. This is a form of verb that is sometimes used to show the possibility of something happening or the wish for it to happen. You use **were** instead of **was**:

If your father were here he would help you.

If I were rich I would buy a house like that.

Susan has always wished she were taller.

I wouldn't do that if I were you.

Standard English and Non-standard English

Standard English is the form that you learn to read and write in school. It is the language that you read in newspapers and books, and hear on the television and radio news. It obeys the rules of English grammar and can be spoken in any accent. You should use this for anything you write in school and in official letters and emails. Non-standard English is the language that people often speak, where they don't always follow the rules of grammar. You should avoid using this in writing.

Tense agreement

You must make sure that you do not jump between tenses when you are writing. If you start off in the past tense, keep to the past tense.

I was walking down the street when I saw my friend coming towards me.
(NOT I was walking down the street when I see my friend coming towards me.)

Subject and verb agreement

You must use the correct form of the verb for the subject of the sentence.

He was asleep when the fire broke out.
(NOT He were asleep when the fire broke out.)

We were happy to hear the news. (NOT We was happy to hear the news.)

Verb inflections

You must use the correct verb form for the past tense of irregular verbs. Some verbs (irregular verbs) have two different forms for the past tense, for example **see**. These are called the past tense and the past participle. The past tense is the one that makes the simple past of the verb. The past participle is the one you use with **have**.

I saw = the past tense

I have seen = the past participle

I saw him yesterday. (NOT I seen him yesterday.)

You should have gone to bed earlier. (NOT You should have went to bed earlier.)

He did his homework in school. (NOT He done his homework in school.)

Also, you should write **I was sitting** not **I was sat**:

I was sitting on the wall when Zain appeared.
(NOT I was sat on the wall when Zain appeared.)

Verb contractions

Some shortened forms of verbs are used in non-standard English. You should not use them in your writing:

• ain't = am not, are not, is not

He is not here yet. (NOT He ain't here yet.)

• amn't = am not

I am not going. (NOT I amn't going.)

• shouldnt've = should not have

You should not have done that. (NOT You shouldnt've done that.)

• innit = is it not?

I and me

You must not confuse **I** and **me**. You use **I** for the subject of the sentence, and **me** for the object.

Helen and I are going swimming. (NOT **Helen and me are going swimming.**)

Kevin threw the water balloon at Linda and me.
(NOT **Kevin threw the water balloon at Linda and I.**)

If you are not sure whether to use **I** or **me** in a sentence like this, take the other person out of the sentence and see if it still makes sense:

Helen and I are going swimming.
> **I am going swimming.** (NOT **Me is going swimming.**)

Kevin threw the water balloon at Linda and me.
> **Kevin threw the water balloon at me.** (NOT **Kevin threw the water balloon at I.**)

Double negatives

A negative is a word like **not**, **nor**, **never** or **nothing**, which means **no**. Sometimes people use two of these in a sentence and this is known as a double negative. You should not do this in standard English:

I didn't have any money.
(NOT **I didn't have no money.**)

We have never been there.
(NOT **We haven't never been there.**)

He didn't do anything wrong.
(NOT **He didn't do nothing wrong.**)

Reporting speech

There are two ways of dealing with speech when you are writing.

Direct speech

This is when you quote exactly what a person says. For this you use inverted commas and verbs like **say**, **reply**, **answer**, **mutter** and **shout**. If you are showing a conversation you start a new paragraph every time a different person speaks.

“Hello Sarah,” said Mike. “What are you doing here?”

“I’m meeting my friends here,” she replied. “We are having lunch and then we are going to the cinema to see the new Hunger Games film.”

“Who’s all going?” asked Mike.

Sarah said, “Lucy, Aila, Rachel and Fiona.”

Indirect speech

This is when you report what a person has said but do not quote it exactly. You do not use inverted commas for this, and you do not use question marks or exclamation marks.

Mike asked Sarah what she was doing in the cafe. She told him she was meeting her friends for lunch and then going to the cinema. Mike asked who was going and Sarah told him it was Lucy, Aila, Rachel and Fiona.

Synonyms

You should try to use a wide range of words in your writing. It is good to avoid repeating the same words again and again. You can do this by using synonyms of overused words. A synonym is a word that means the same as another word. If you are writing a story about a conversation, instead of using **said** each time, you could use **mentioned**, **responded**, **muttered**, **whispered** or **snapped**. By doing this, you make your writing more interesting and entertaining.

Here are some words to avoid and some synonyms you could try instead:

• **nice:**

attractive

charming

agreeable

delightful

pleasant

likeable

pleasurable

• **great:**

excellent

outstanding

superb

skilful

first-rate

tremendous

• look:

glance

peek

gaze

stare

watch

survey

examine

study

gape

• big:

gigantic

immense

massive

vast

enormous

colossal

Be careful, though. A word that is a synonym for one meaning of a word might not work for another. You can replace **good** with **well-behaved** in the phrase ‘a good child’, but **well-behaved** does not work instead of **good** in ‘a good book’.

Antonyms

An antonym is a word that means the opposite of another word. For example **forget** is the antonym of **remember**.

You can use antonyms to show a contrast:

William had hoped by now to be rich; he was shocked to realise he was actually rather poor.

After so many years her love had turned to hate.

You can use an antonym with a negative to emphasise something that might seem surprising:

Maria was not unhappy that the party had been cancelled.
(Maria was actually happy about it)

This government policy is not unpopular with the public.
(The policy is actually popular)

Only use a word if you are certain that you know what it means. If you are not sure, check the meaning in a good dictionary. For synonyms and antonyms, you should check a thesaurus.

Layout

When you are writing something for school, think about the way it appears on the page. Is it clear and easy to read? The layout is important. You must break your writing into paragraphs, but there are other things you can do to make your work readable.

Headings

A heading comes at the very top of the page before you write anything else. It tells the reader the title of the story or report. You can put this in a larger type size than the rest of the document if you like. It is often typed in bold.

Subheadings

If there are sections within the piece of writing, you can give each of these a subheading. It can be in bold or underlined.

Columns

You can put lists of information into columns, each with a heading.

Bullet points

You can also show lists with bullet points (see more on bullet points on [page 57](#)).

Here’s an example of good layout:

Emblems of the United States of America

Background

Each of the 50 states that make up the United States of America has three emblems to represent it. These are a bird, a flower and a tree. These are usually, if not always, native to the state.

History

The first state flower was selected in 1892 when Washington chose the coast rhododendron as its emblem. Texas was the first to select a state tree – the pecan – in 1919. In 1927, seven states (Alabama, Florida, Maine, Missouri, Oregon, Texas and Wyoming) chose the birds that they wanted as their state emblems.

State	State Bird	State Tree	State Flower
Alabama	yellowhammer	longleaf pine	camellia
Alaska	willow ptarmigan	sitka spruce	forget-me-not
Arizona	cactus wren	blue palo verde	saguaro cactus blossom
Arkansas	mockingbird	loblolly pine	apple blossom
California	California quail	coast redwood	California poppy
Colorado	lark bunting	Colorado blue spruce	Rocky Mountain columbine

Other US territories with state emblems:

- Guam
- Northern Marianas
- Puerto Rico
- US Virgin Islands

Punctuation

What is punctuation?

Punctuation is the use of marks in writing to make it easier to read and understand. These marks are called punctuation marks.

The punctuation marks you need to know are: full stop, question mark, exclamation mark, comma, apostrophe, inverted comma, bracket, dash, semicolon, colon, hyphen, bullet point and ellipsis. These are all explained in the following pages.

Here are some basic things to remember when you write:

- Leave a space between each word.
- Start each sentence with a capital letter.
- Finish each sentence with a full stop, a question mark or an exclamation mark.

Letters

Letters are written symbols which go together to make words. An alphabet is a set of these letters.

Small letters

The English alphabet has 26 letters:

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

When you write letters in that way, they are called small letters (also known as lower case letters). Most words are written in small letters.

Capital letters

A capital letter (which is also sometimes just called a capital) is a way of writing a letter of the alphabet. Each letter can be written as a small letter or a capital letter. Here is the alphabet in capital letters.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

When should you use a capital letter in your writing?

There are a number of places where you should make the first letter of a word a capital.

- At the beginning of a sentence:

Phone me when you are ready to come home.

What is the name of that band you want to see?

The fire alarm rang so we all had to leave the building.

- For the names of people and places:

Jessica Ennis

Prince William

Robert Muchamore

Birmingham

Cuba

Kilimanjaro

- For nationalities and languages:

Spanish

Iraqi

Nigerian

Italian

Urdu

Russian

- For the days of the week and months of the year:

Wednesday

Friday

Sunday

January

April

November

- For religions and religious festivals:

Buddhism

Islam

Sikhism

Diwali

Easter

Yom Kippur

- For the names of companies and products:

Pepsi

Apple

Adidas

Converse

Pringles

Dairy Milk

- For the names of books, TV programmes, films, plays, magazines, newspapers and websites:

Catching Fire

Horrible Histories

Despicable Me

Macbeth

First News

Amazon

- For the pronoun **I**:

Hashim and I are in the same English class.

I forgot to bring my gym kit to school today.

What should I give Lucy for her birthday?

Full stop

The full stop is a dot like . When you are writing a full stop, you put it so that it sits just on top of the line.

When should you use a full stop in your writing?

- At the end of a sentence:

My friends and I are going skating tomorrow.

I love dogs but I'm scared of cats.

Remind me to post that letter.

- At the end of a word or phrase that can stand on its own:

Sorry.

Good morning.

Do you like rap? Not much.

You do not put a full stop at the end of a question or an exclamation but you do if you are writing *about* a question or exclamation:

**The man asked me where the nearest shop was.
("Where is the nearest shop?" asked the man.)**

**She screamed that she hated me.
("I hate you!" she screamed.)**

Question mark

The question mark is a symbol that looks like **?** You put it at the end of a sentence. When you are writing a question mark, you put the dot just above the line.

When should you use a question mark in your writing?

You use a question mark to show that you are asking a direct question:

Did I leave my skateboard at your house?

Where do you live?

Do you want to go swimming tomorrow?

Exclamation mark

The exclamation mark is a symbol that looks like **!** You put it at the end of a sentence. When you are writing an exclamation mark, you put the dot just above the line.

When should you use an exclamation mark in your writing?

- To show a strong feeling like anger, surprise or excitement:

I can't believe you said that!

We're getting a puppy!

You scared me!

- When you are telling someone to do something:

Don't touch that!

Pass the ball to me!

Close the door after you!

Comma

The comma is a mark that looks like **,** which you write or type. When you are writing a comma, it should sit just on the line, with its tail hanging down across the line.

When should you use a comma in your writing?

- To separate items in a list, instead of repeating the word **and**:

We need to pack shorts, t-shirts, a swimsuit and trainers.

For this cake you only need eggs, milk, sugar and flour.

You can contact me by phone, email or text message.

- To mark a short pause between different parts of a sentence:

Most people like summer best, but I prefer winter.

After a month of rain, the sun finally came out.

Unfortunately, this year's school trip to France has been cancelled.

The week after next, we are moving house.

- To separate the name of the person or people you are talking to from the rest of the sentence:

Are you coming to the party, Rachel?

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

- If the name is in the middle of the sentence, there should be a comma before and after it:

I'd like to start, boys and girls, by introducing myself.

Can you tell me, Helen, what you are doing here?

- When you are quoting someone:

“I have never been in this shop before,” said Emily.

Anum replied, “We come here after school every Friday.”

Where you put the comma depends on the way the sentence is written. If it ends with a verb (**said**) and the speaker (**Emily**), the comma should be inside the inverted commas. If the sentence begins with the speaker (**Anum**) and the verb (**replied**), the comma comes after the verb and before the inverted commas.

For the first type of example, you do not need a comma if the quotation ends in an exclamation mark or question mark:

“Come here quickly!” she yelled.

“Who’s your English teacher this year?” asked Matthew.

But you do still need a comma for the second:

The boy shouted, “There’s a fire!”

Linda asked, “Do you want to go to the pictures on Saturday?”

- To mark off separate information that is not essential:

Andy raced down the street, jumping over a giant puddle on the pavement, and reached the bus just as it was starting to move away from the stop.

You could take out the words within the commas and this sentence would still make sense. Putting information in commas in this way is called parenthesis.

Andy raced down the street and reached the bus just as it was starting to move away from the stop.

Apostrophe

The apostrophe is a mark that looks like ’ which you use when you are writing or typing. When you are writing an apostrophe, you put it at the top of the letter, for example **Eve’s bike** or **the witch’s**

cat.

When should you use an apostrophe in your writing?

There are two reasons for using an apostrophe: possession and contraction.

- Possession: Apostrophes show possession or ownership of something:

Jane's phone

the teachers' cloakroom

- When you want to show that something belongs to a single person, place or thing, you add 's to the end of the person, place or thing:

Callum's bag (the bag belonging to Callum)

Britain's castles (the castles found in Britain)

the car's windscreen (the windscreen on the car)

If the person, place or thing ends in s, just add ':

James' hat

Paris' streets

- When you want to show that something belongs to more than one person, place or thing, you add ' after the word, but you do this only if the word ends in s:

the players' uniforms (the uniforms belonging to the players)

the islands' ferry (the ferry that goes to the islands)

the trees' leaves (the leaves on the trees)

- If the plural of a word does not end in s, you add 's to show possession:

the children's jotters (the jotters belonging to the children)

the teeth's enamel (the enamel on teeth)

mice's whiskers (the whiskers that mice have)

- Contraction: Apostrophes show that a letter (or more than one letter) has been removed:

can't

I'll

he'd

This is called a contraction; two words are joined together and a letter, or some letters, are dropped.
Here are some of the commonest contractions:

had or would	will or shall
I'd = I had or I would	I'll = I will or I shall
you'd = you had or you would	you'll = you will
she'd = she had or she would	she'll = she will
they'd = they had or they would	they'll = they will

have	be
I've = I have	I'm = I am
you've = you have	you're = you are
she's = she has	she's = she is
they've = they have	they're = they are

Here are some contractions with **not**:

do	be
don't	aren't
doesn't	isn't
	wasn't

didn't	weren't
have	will
haven't hasn't hadn't	won't
would	can
wouldn't	can't
could	should
couldn't	shouldn't

Inverted comma

Inverted commas are marks which are put before and after words to show exactly what someone is saying. They are also known as speech marks or quotation marks, and they look like “ ” or ‘ ’. When you are writing inverted commas, you put them at the top of the letters.

When should you use inverted commas in your writing?

To show exactly what a person said or is saying:

“You can all go home early,” said the teacher.

Her mother asked, “Can you please take the dog for a walk?”

This is called direct speech. When you write direct speech you should put the punctuation at the end of the speech inside the inverted commas:

“Help me!” cried the man.

Jenny said, “I’m sorry I can’t come to your party.”

Bracket

Brackets are punctuation marks that are used in pairs. They are usually like () and these are sometimes known as round brackets. Sometimes people use square brackets which look like [].

When should you use brackets in your writing?

Brackets are used to contain things that have been added to give extra information. The sentence would still make sense without the words inside the brackets. Putting information in brackets in this way is called parenthesis.

My grandmother (my mother's mother) was born in Dundee.

Bring something good to eat (like chocolate, crisps or popcorn) to the sleepover on Saturday.

Miss Brown (I mean my maths teacher, not Miss Brown who works in the office) is getting married next month.

Dash

The dash is a mark that is a short line – which is longer than a hyphen. When you are writing a dash, you put it above the line, about halfway between the top and the bottom of the letters beside it. You should also put a space before and after a dash.

When should you use a dash in your writing?

You use a dash for two different things:

- To show a break in a sentence:

Don't leave your plate there – put it back in the kitchen.

I'm not sure – what was the question again?

Bring me my bag please – the grey one.

- To mark off separate information:

Peter and I – the others can't make it – are going skating on Sunday.

We are collecting books – it doesn't matter whether they are old or new – for the school sale.

To make a smoothie you put ice, milk, yoghurt and fruit – raspberries and strawberries are good – and mix them all in a blender.

This is called parenthesis. You put a dash before and after the extra information.

Semicolon

The semicolon is a mark that looks like ; (a full stop directly above a comma). When you are writing a semicolon, you put the comma part on top of the line, with the tail hanging across the line.

When should you use a semicolon in your writing?

- To separate items in a list, when the items are longer than one or two words each:

This is what went wrong on holiday: the flight was late; the hotel was dirty; the food was horrible; it rained every day; and I ended up with an ear infection.

Here is the fireworks code: keep fireworks in a closed box; follow the instructions on each firework; light all fireworks at arm's length; stand well back; never go back to a lit firework; never put fireworks in your pocket; never throw fireworks; and keep pets indoors.

- To mark a break in a sentence, especially when you are showing a contrast or balance between two things:

Jack loves football; his brother hates it.

The wedding is in July; the weather should be warm then.

My family don't eat turkey at Christmas; we like to go for a curry instead.

Colon

The colon is a mark that looks like : (a full stop directly above another full stop). When you are writing a colon, the bottom full stop should sit just on top of the line.

When should you use a colon in your writing?

- To introduce a list:

The Jamaican flag contains three colours: black, green and gold.

I need to get some things at the supermarket: tea, bread, apples, milk and cheese.

- To introduce a reason for something:

We never go abroad on holiday: my father is scared of flying.

You need to take a waterproof jacket: it's going to rain later.

Hyphen

A hyphen is a mark that looks like a short line - which you put between words to join them together. When you are writing a hyphen, you put it above the line, about halfway between the top and the bottom of the letters you are joining.

When should you use a hyphen in your writing?

Often, when you join words together, you do not need a hyphen because the words can just be put together to make a new word:

web + site = website

But there are times when you need to put a hyphen between the words:

- To avoid having two vowels next to each other:

pro-independence

re-elect

anti-ageing

- To avoid confusion about how the word should be said:

no-nonsense

mis-sell

pro-am

- To avoid confusion with another word:

re-creation (recreation)

re-cover (recover)

re-count (recount)

- You also use a hyphen to avoid confusion about what a phrase means:

hoodie wearing boys hoodie-wearing boys (boys wearing hoodies)

fish eating seabirds fish-eating seabirds (seabirds eating fish)

flag waving fans flag-waving fans (fans waving flags)

Bullet point

A bullet point is a mark that comes before an item in a list. It is usually in the shape of a large solid dot • and you put it halfway between the top and bottom of the word that follows it.

When should you use bullet points in your writing?

You use bullet points when you are making points in a list:

Games for a child's birthday party:

- musical chairs
- pass the parcel
- pin the tail on the donkey
- memory tray

- musical statues

You put a colon after the introduction to the list. The items in the list should all start with a small letter, unless they are full sentences, and then they start with a capital letter and have a full stop afterwards.

Ellipsis

The ellipsis is a mark made up of three full stops ... and it is used to show that part of the sentence is missing.

When should you use the ellipsis in your writing?

- You use the ellipsis to show that some words are missing. You would insert an ellipsis if you were using a long quotation from someone and you did not want to include the whole quotation. By using an ellipsis you can leave out the words that you do not need, but you can make it clear that the quotation is not being written exactly. This is important when you write reports.

Here is a quotation from a very famous speech:

“I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.” Martin Luther King Jr

Here it is in a shorter form with ellipsis:

“I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi ... will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.”

- Ellipsis is also used when you want to show a pause in a character’s speech:

“Why are you late?” demanded the head teacher.

“Well ... I ... I’m not sure,” muttered the boy.

- Ellipsis can also help us to create a dramatic ending to a story:

Two red eyes appeared in the cave ...

Spelling

The alphabet

The English alphabet has 26 letters:

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Letters are sorted into two groups, consonants and vowels. They are separated like this because you make a different sound when you say them.

Consonants

Twenty letters in the alphabet are called consonants:

b c d f g h j k l m n p q r s t v w x z

When you make a consonant sound, you stop the sound with your lips, tongue or teeth. For example, when you make the sound /f/, you put your bottom lip against your top teeth. When the air passes between them, it makes the /f/ sound.

Vowels

Five of the letters are called vowels:

a e i o u

A vowel sound is one which is produced without the air being stopped in any way.

The letter y

The letter **y** is special. It can be a vowel or a consonant.

party

style

= vowel

yellow

backyard

= consonant

It is most often grouped with the consonants.

Syllables

A syllable is one part of a word with one vowel sound which is said as a single unit or beat.

Here are some words with one syllable:

man

house

friend

shore

Here are some words with two syllables:

woman

palace

husband

teacher

Here are some words with three syllables:

overtake

compliment

riverside

telephone

Stressed syllables

When you say a word with more than one syllable, you do not put the same emphasis – or stress – on each syllable. You say some syllables more strongly than others. These are the stressed syllables. Look at the parts of the words that are underlined below:

toddler

window

admit

replacement

Unstressed syllables

Syllables without this stress are called unstressed syllables. These parts are underlined below:

toddler

window

Letters and sounds

When spelling, it is important to understand the difference between the way we say a sound and the way we write it.

Phonemes

A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound we can make that is different from other sounds. We write the phoneme sounds between slashes:

din /d/ + /i/ + /n/

There are about 44 phonemes in English, depending on the accent you have.

Graphemes

A grapheme is the letter or combination of letters used to write a phoneme:

Phoneme	Grapheme
/m/	m (as in <i>room</i>)
/f/	f (as in <i>fin</i>) ph (as in <i>photo</i>)
/t/	t (as in <i>cat</i>) tt (as in <i>kitten</i>) ght (as in <i>fight</i>)

Consonants and their phonemes and graphemes

b The phoneme /b/ is written as **b** or **bb**, as in *bake* and *rubbing*.

d The phoneme /d/ is written as **d**, **dd** or **ed**, as in *dog*, *rudder* and *pulled*.

The phoneme /t/ is written as **f**, **ff**, **gh** or **ph**, as in *face*, *scoff*, *laugh* and *photo*.
f It is usually spelt as **ff** if it comes straight after a single vowel in a short word, like *cliff*.
 But watch out for: *if*
 It is usually spelt as **f** in short everyday words, like *fun*, *fit*, *fall*, *full* and *finish*.

g The phoneme /g/ is written as **g** or **gg**, as in *gate* and *bigger*.
 In some words ending in the /g/ sound, it is spelt **gue**, as in *league* and *plague*.

h The phoneme /h/ is written as **h**, as in *help*.

The phoneme /k/ is written as **c**, **ck**, **k**, **ch** or **qu**, as in *cat*, *luck*, *kite*, *school* and *mosquito*.
k It is usually spelt as **ck** if it comes straight after a single vowel in a short word, like *back*.
 It is spelt as **k** if it comes before **e**, **i** and **y**, as in *sketch*, *skin*, *kit* and *risky*.
 It is spelt as **ch** in some words which originally came from Greek, like *scheme*, *chorus* and *echo*.

In some words ending in the /k/ sound, it is spelt **que**, as in *antique* and *unique*.

The /kw/ sound at the beginning of a word is spelt **qu**, as in *queen*, *quick*, *quit* and *question*.

The phoneme /l/ is written as **l** or **ll**, as in *life* and *doll*.

l

It is usually spelt as **ll** if it comes straight after a short vowel sound, like *hill* or *villain*.

But watch out for: *pal*

m

The phoneme /m/ is written as **m**, **mm**, **mn** or **mb**, as in *mouse*, *summer*, *autumn* and *lamb*.

The phoneme /n/ is written as **n**, **nn**, **gn**, **kn**, **mn** or **pn**, as in *net*, *dinner*, *gnome*, *knife*, *mnemonic* and *pneumonia*.

n

When a word starts with **kn**, you do not say the **k**, as in *knight* and *knee*.

When a word starts with **gn**, you do not say the **g**, as in *gnaw*.

When a word starts with **mn** or **pn**, you do not say the **m** or **p**, as in *mnemonic* and *pneumatic*.

p

The phoneme /p/ is written as **p** or **pp**, as in *pond* and *supper*.

r

The phoneme /r/ is written as **r**, **rr**, **wr** or **rh**, as in *rude*, *sorry*, *write* and *rhyme*.

When a word starts with **wr**, you do not say the **w**, as in *wrong*.

The phoneme /s/ is written as **s**, **ss**, **c**, **sc**, **ps** or **st**, as in *silver*, *messy*, *cellar*, *science*, *psychiatry* and *listen*.

s

It is usually spelt as **ss** if it comes straight after a single vowel in a short word, like *kiss*.

But watch out for: *bus*, *yes*, *us*

It is spelt as **c** before **e**, **i** and **y**, as in *face*, *rice*, *centre*, *civil* and *mercy*.

It is spelt as **sc** in some words which originally came from Latin, like *scenery*, *descent* and *discipline*.

t

The phoneme /t/ is written as **t**, **tt**, **ght**, **ed**, **th** or **bt**, as in *top*, *letter*, *height*, *jumped*, *Thomas* and *doubt*.

The phoneme /v/ is written as **v** or **vv**, as in *victory* and *skivvy*.

v

If a word ends with the /v/ phoneme, it is usually spelt **ve**, as in *have*, *live* and *give*.

English words almost never end with the letter **v**.

But watch out for: *of*

w

The phoneme /w/ is written as **w** or **wh**, as in *wild* and *which*.

z

The phoneme /z/ is written as **z**, **zz**, **s**, **se** or **ze**, as in *zoo*, *fizzy*, *homes*, *please* and *breeze*.

It is usually spelt as **zz** if it comes straight after a single vowel in a short word, like *jazz*.

ð

The phoneme /ð/ is written as **th**, as in *that* and *brother*.

θ

The phoneme /θ/ is written as **th**, as in *think* and *tooth*.

The phoneme /dʒ/ is written as **g**, **j** or **dge**, as in *general*, *jump* and *badger*.

The letter **j** is never used for the /dʒ/ sound at the end of words. The /dʒ/ phoneme at the end of a word is spelt as **dge** if it comes after /æ/, /ɛ/, /ɪ/, /ʊ/ and /ʌ/, as in *badge*, *hedge*, *ridge*, *lodge* and *nudge*.

dʒ

After all other sounds, if /dʒ/ is at the end of a word, it is spelt as **ge**, as in *wage*, *huge*, *barge*, *range*, *bulge* and *village*.

Elsewhere in words, /dʒ/ is spelt as **j** before **a**, **o** and **u**, as in *jam*, *jotter*, *junk* and *adjust*.

It is often spelt as **g** before **e**, **i** and **y**, as in *gem*, *ginger*, *giraffe* and *energy*.

But watch out for: *jelly*, *jewel*, *jet*, *jig*, *jinx*

j

The phoneme /j/ is written as **y**, as in *young*.

ŋ

The phoneme /ŋ/ is written as **ng**, as in *ring* and *singer*.

It is written as **n** when it comes before **k**, as in *think*, *blank*, *chunk* and *honk*.

ʃ

The phoneme /ʃ/ is written as **sh**, **ch** or **s**, as in *ship*, *chef* and *sugar*.

It is spelt as **ch** in some words which originally came from French, like *chalet*, *machine* and *brochure*.

tʃ

The phoneme /tʃ/ is written as **ch** or **tch**, as in *chocolate* and *witch*.

It is usually spelt as **tch** if it comes straight after a single vowel, as in *fetch* and *catch*.

But watch out for: *rich*, *which*, *much*, *such*

ʒ

The phoneme /ʒ/ is written as **s** or **z**, as in *measure* and *azure*.

x

The letter X represents the sound /ks/ or /gz/, as in *box* and *exam*.

Vowels and their phonemes and graphemes

ɑː

The phoneme /ɑː/ is written as **a**, as in *father*.

ɒ

The phoneme /ɒ/ is written as **o**, as in *lot*.

When it comes after **w** or **qu**, it is spelt as **a**, as in *want*, *watch*, *quality* and *squash*.

æ

The phoneme /æ/ is written as **a**, as in *hat*.

aɪ

The phoneme /aɪ/ is written as **i**, **i_e**, **ie** or **igh**, as in *blind*, *time*, *lie* and *sigh*.

When it comes at the end of a word, it is usually spelt as **y**, as in *cry*, *dry*, *apply* and *July*.

aʊ

The phoneme /aʊ/ is written as **ou** or **ow**, as in *pound* and *down*.

ɛ

The phoneme /ɛ/ is written as **e** or **ea**, as in *bed* and *head*.

eɪ

The phoneme /eɪ/ is written as **ay**, **a_e** or **ai**, as in *play*, *date* and *faint*.

It can also be spelt as **ei**, as in *rein*, *vein* and *reindeer*.

It can be spelt as **eight**, as in *eight*, *weigh* and *weight*.

It can be spelt as **ey**, as in *they*, *obey* and *prey*.

It can be spelt as **aigh**, as in *straight*.

ɛə

The phoneme /ɛə/ is written as **air**, **are** or **ear** as in *fair*, *care* and *bear*.

əʊ

The phoneme /əʊ/ is written as **o**, **oa**, **o_e** or **ow**, as in *hold*, *toad*, *bone* and *show*.

ɪ

The phoneme /ɪ/ is written as **i**, as in *sing*.

When it comes at the end of a word, it is spelt as **y**, as in *very*, *silly*, *rugby* and *family*.

It can also be spelt **ey** at the end of a word, as in *valley*, *chimney* and *monkey*.

There are a few words where the phoneme is spelt as **y** when it does not come at the end: *gym*, *myth*, *pyramid*, *mystery*, *Egypt*

ɪə

The phoneme /ɪə/ is written as **eer**, **ear**, **ere** or **ier**, as in *jeer*, *hear*, *here* and *pier*.

iː

The phoneme /iː/ is written as **e**, **ea**, **ee**, **e_e** or **ie**, as in *he*, *steal*, *tree*, *theme* and *thief*. It can also be spelt **ey** when it is at the end of a word, as in *key*. When it comes after **c**, it is spelt as **ei**, as in *deceive*, *receive*, *ceiling* and *conceit*.

ɔː

The phoneme /ɔː/ is written as **au**, **aw** or **or**, as in *cause*, *dawn* and *corn*. When it comes after **w**, it is spelt as **ar**, as in *war*, *warm*, *wart* and *towards*. When it comes before **l** or **ll**, it is spelt as **a**, as in *walk*, *always*, *ball* and *fall*.

ɔɪ

The phoneme /ɔɪ/ is written as **oi** or **oy**, as in *join* and *toy*.

ʊ

The phoneme /ʊ/ is written as **oo** or **ou**, as in *look* and *could*.

ʊə	The phoneme /ʊə/ is written as our , ure or oor , as in <i>tour</i> , <i>sure</i> and <i>poor</i> .
u:	The phoneme /u:/ is written as oo , ou , ue or u_e , as in <i>boot</i> , <i>you</i> , <i>true</i> and <i>flute</i> .
ʌ	The phoneme /ʌ/ is written as u , as in <i>mug</i> . It can be spelt as o , as in <i>other</i> , <i>son</i> , <i>nothing</i> and <i>Monday</i> . It is spelt as ou in a few words: <i>young</i> , <i>touch</i> , <i>trouble</i> , <i>double</i> and <i>country</i> .
ɜ:	The phoneme /ɜ:/ is written as er , ur or ir , as in <i>herd</i> , <i>burn</i> and <i>third</i> . When it comes after w , it is spelt as or . There are not many of these words: <i>word</i> , <i>worm</i> , <i>world</i> , <i>work</i> , <i>worth</i> , <i>worse</i> , <i>worst</i>
ə	The phoneme /ə/ is written as er , as in <i>father</i> .

Digraphs and trigraphs

A digraph is a grapheme where two letters represent one phoneme:

<u>grapheme</u>	<u>phoneme</u>	<u>example</u>
ea	/i:/	<i>seat</i>
sh	/ʃ/	<i>shoot</i>

A split digraph is when the two letters in a digraph are separated by another letter:

<u>split digraph</u>	<u>phoneme</u>	<u>example</u>
u_e	/u:/	<i>crude</i>
i_e	/aɪ/	<i>slime</i>

A trigraph is a grapheme where three letters represent one phoneme:

<u>trigraph</u>	<u>phoneme</u>	<u>example</u>
tch	/tʃ/	<i>watch</i>
igh	/aɪ/	<i>light</i>

Vowel digraphs and trigraphs

Here are the digraphs and trigraphs that represent English vowel sounds.

a_e	as in <i>take, same, made, grape</i>
ai	as in <i>rain, pain, afraid, wait</i> This is never used at the end of a word.
air	as in <i>air, stairs, chair, fairy</i>
ar	as in <i>bar, dark, harm, garden</i>
are	as in <i>stare, care, scared, compare</i>
au	as in <i>author, audience, thesaurus, dinosaur</i>

aw

as in *saw, awful, lawn, crawl*

ay

as in *day, stay, play, waylay*

This is used at the end of a word and the end of a syllable.

ea

as in *sea, lean, reach, meat*as in *head, bread, instead, meant*as in *great, break, steak*

ear

as in *clear, year, beard, appear*as in *bear, wear, pear*

ee

as in *see, meet, peek, agree*

e_e

as in *these, extreme, theme, concrete*

er

as in *her, term, verb, person*as in *clever, over, mother, gather*

ew

as in *new, few, grew, drew*This digraph can be used for 'oo' sounds like *drew* and 'yoo' sounds like *new*.

ie

as in *die, tried, lie, pie*as in *chief, field, relief, thief*

i_e

as in *hide, bike, kite, time, alive*

igh

as in *fright, high, sigh, night*

ir

as in *girl, bird, skirt, first*

oa

as in *goal, boat, road, goat*There are very few words that end in **oa**.

oe

as in *toe, goes, woe*as in *shoe*

o_e

as in *rope, mole, those, joke*

oi

as in *oil, join, point, toil*

This is almost never used at the end of a word.

oo

as in *wood, fool, moon, food*as in *book, took, foot, wood, good*Very few words end in **oo**.But watch out for: *zoo, shampoo, igloo*

or

as in *for, short, horse, form*

ore

as in *wore, swore, before, more*

ou

as in *out, round, south, loud*as in *could, would, should*There are very few words that end in **ou**.But watch out for: *you*

ow

as in *town, crowd, now, frown*as in *own, grow, blow, snow*

oy

as in *toy, boy, enjoy, royal*

This is mostly used at the end of a word and the end of a syllable.

ue

as in *blue, clue, true, rescue*This digraph can be used for ‘oo’ sounds like *blue* and ‘yoo’ sounds like *rescue*.

u_e

as in *use, rule, tune, rude*This digraph can be used for ‘oo’ sounds like *rule* and ‘yoo’ sounds like *use*.

ur

as in *burn, turn, hurt, Thursday*

Adding endings to words

Adding endings to root words can change their meanings. There are some rules to help you know how to spell the new words you make.

Making nouns plural

One person or thing is called the singular, for example **one elephant**. More than one is called the plural, for example **two elephants**. When you make a singular noun plural, you change it by adding the ending (or suffix) **-s** or **-es**. To work out whether to add **-s** or **-es**, look at the last letter or letters in the root word. That will show you how to make the plural.

Adding -s

The simplest way to make a plural is to add **-s** to the end of the root word. This is how most nouns work.

Last letter or letters	Root word	Plural
a	umbrella a	umbrellas
b	job b	jobs
c	attic c	attics
d	word d	words
e	tree e	trees
ff	cliff ff	cliffs
g	log g	logs
i	bikini i	bikinis
k	stick k	sticks

l	wall	walls
m	pram	prams
n	bin	bins
p	lamp	lamps
r	colour	colours
t	rat	rats
w	pillow	pillows

Adding -es

Some plurals are made by adding **-es**. Remember to look at the last letter or letters in the root word.

Last letter or letters	Root word	Plural
ch	witch	witches
sh	wish	wishes
s	bus	buses
ss	kiss	kisses
x	fox	foxes
z	buzz	buzzes

Nouns that end in f or fe

When a word ends in **f**, change the **f** to **v** and add **-es**:

thief → thieves

leaf → leaves

half → halves

loaf → loaves

When a word ends in **fe**, change the **fe** to **ve** and add **-s**:

life → lives

knife → knives

Nouns that end in o

For most nouns that end in **o**, make the plural by adding **-s**:

piano → pianos

shampoo → shampoos

zero → zeros

But watch out for a few that add **-es** instead:

echo → echoes

tomato → tomatoes

potato → potatoes

hero → heroes

Nouns that end in y

If the last letter of a noun is **y**, look at the letter before the **y** to know how to make it a plural. If the letter before the **y** is a vowel, add **-s**:

day → days

key → keys

toy → toys

guy → guys

If the letter before the **y** is a consonant, change the **y** to **i** and then add **-es**:

fairy → fairies

quality → qualities

spy → spies

mummy → mummies

But ...

There are some exceptions to the rules about making nouns plural.

child → children

man → men

woman → women

mouse → mice

tooth → teeth

goose → geese

ox → oxen

person → people

And ...

Some words are the same for the singular and plural.

sheep → sheep

deer → deer

pence → pence

fish → fish

Comparing adjectives

The comparative of an adjective means ‘more’ and to make it add **-er** to the end. The superlative means ‘most’ and you make it by adding **-est**.

small

smaller

smallest

Adding -er and -est without change

For most adjectives of one or two syllables, add **-er** or **-est** without making any other change to the word:

high

higher

highest

dark

darker

darkest

quiet

quieter

quietest

Adjectives ending in y

If the last letter is **y** and the letter before it is a consonant, change the **y** to **i** and add **-er** or **-est**:

happy

happier

happiest

silly

sillier

silliest

merry

merrier

merriest

Adjectives ending in e

If the last letter is **e**, drop the **e** and add **-er** or **-est**:

nice

nicer

nicest

tame

tamer

tamest

rare

rarer

rarest

Some adjectives with one syllable

If an adjective has one syllable and ends with a single vowel followed by a single consonant, double the consonant and add **-er** or **-est**:

fat

fatter

fattest

sad

sadder

saddest

slim

slimmer

slimmest

Inflecting verbs

Verbs can be written in different ways. These are called inflections. There are verb inflections for four different things: third person singular present tense, present participle, past tense and past participle.

Third person singular present tense

This form of verb is used when talking about one person or thing doing something now. To make it add **-s** or **-es** to the end of the verb:

walk → walks Jack walks to school.

catch → catches The dog catches the ball in its mouth.

Adding -s

For most verbs, just add **-s**:

climb → climbs

trace → traces

remember → remembers

Adding -es

If a verb ends in **ch**, **sh**, **ss**, **x** or **z**, add **-es**:

pinch → pinches

push → pushes

pass → passes

box → boxes

fizz → fizzes

Verbs ending in y

If the verb ends in **y** and the letter before it is a consonant, change the **y** to **i** and add **-es**:

try → tries

reply → replies

copy → copies

If the verb ends in **y** and the letter before it is a vowel, you just add **-s**:

play → plays

key → keys

annoy → annoys

Present participle

This form of the verb ends in **-ing**. It is the one you use for the progressive present tense and the progressive past tense.

Adding -ing

For most verbs, just add **-ing**:

read → reading

catch → catching

repeat → repeating

fly → flying

Verbs ending in e

If the verb ends in **e**, drop the **e** and then add **-ing**:

like → liking

fade → fading

write → writing

Some verbs with one syllable

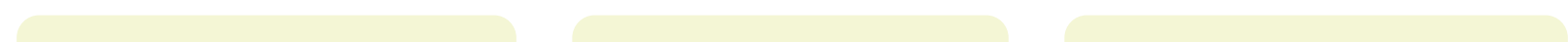
If a verb has one syllable and ends in a single vowel followed by a single consonant, double the consonant and add **-ing**:

hit → hitting

bat → batting

hum → humming

But watch out for:



boxing

fixing

mixing

Verbs ending in ie

There is a small group of verbs that end in **ie**:

die

lie

tie

untie

vie

For these you replace the **ie** with **y** before adding **-ing**:

dying

lying

tying

untying

vying

Verbs ending in fer

If the verb ends in **fer**, you double the final **r** before adding **-ing**:

refer → referring

transfer → transferring

prefer → preferring

Verbs with more than one syllable

This rule is for verbs that have more than one syllable and end in a single vowel followed by a single consonant. If the final syllable is stressed, double the consonant and then add **-ing**:

admit → admitting

equip → equipping

regret → regretting

If the final syllable is not stressed, you just add **-ing**:

limit → limiting

listen → listening

order → ordering

Past tense

The past tense is the form used to describe an action that has already happened. To make this add **-ed** or **-d**.

Adding -ed

For most verbs, just add **-ed**:

rain → rained

design → designed

clear → cleared

Verbs ending in e

If a verb ends in **e**, add **-d**:

smile → smiled

like → liked

separate → separated

Verbs ending in y

If the verb ends in **y** and the letter before it is a consonant, change the **y** to **i** and add **-ed**:

rely → relied

dry → dried

occupy → occupied

If the verb ends in **y** and the letter before it is a vowel, just add **-ed**:

replay → replayed

annoy → annoyed

key → keyed

Some verbs with one syllable

If a verb has one syllable and ends in a single vowel followed by a single consonant, double the consonant and add **-ed**:

hop → hopped

sin → sinned

spot → spotted

But watch out for:

boxed

fixed

mixed

Verbs ending in fer

If the verb ends in **fer**, double the final **r** before adding **-ed**:

refer → referred

transfer → transferred

prefer → preferred

Verbs with more than one syllable

This rule is for verbs that have more than one syllable and end in a single vowel followed by a single consonant. If the final syllable is stressed, double the consonant and then add **-ed**:

admit → admitted

equip → equipped

regret → regretted

If the final syllable is not stressed, just add **-ed**:

limit → limited

listen → listened

order → ordered

Past participle

The past participle is the form of the verb that is used with the auxiliary verb **have** to make the present perfect tense or the past perfect tense. For most verbs, the past participle is the same as the past tense:

love → loved

I loved PE at school.

He has loved singing since he was a little boy.

Irregular verbs

There are many commonly used verbs which have a different past tense and past participle. Here is a list of some of them.

Verb	Past tense	Past participle
begin	began	begun
bite	bit	bitten
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
choose	chose	chosen

draw	drew	drawn
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
fly	flew	flown
forget	forgot	forgotten
forgive	forgave	forgiven
freeze	froze	frozen
give	gave	given
grow	grew	grown
know	knew	known
lie	lay	lain
ride	rode	ridden
ring	rang	rung
rise	rose	risen
run	ran	run
see	saw	seen
swear	swore	sworn
swim	swam	swum
shake	shook	shaken
sing	sang	sung
sink	sank	sunk

speak	spoke	spoken
steal	stole	stolen
take	took	taken
tear	tore	torn
throw	threw	thrown
wake	woke	woken
wear	wore	worn
write	wrote	written

Other irregular verbs

Here are some other verbs which do not follow the rules for inflections. These verbs (and the ones in the previous list) are known as irregular verbs.

Verb	Past tense	Past participle
beat	beat	beaten
become	became	become
bend	bent	bent
bring	brought	brought
build	built	built
burst	burst	burst
buy	bought	bought
catch	caught	caught
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
cut	cut	cut
feed	fed	fed

feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
get	got	got
hang	hung	hung
hear	heard	heard
hit	hit	hit
hold	held	held
keep	kept	kept
lead	led	led
leave	left	left
lend	lent	lent
light	lit	lit
make	made	made
mean	meant	meant
pay	paid	paid
put	put	put
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
shoot	shot	shot
sit	sat	sat
sleep	slept	slept
slide	slid	slid
spend	spent	spent

stand	stood	stood
teach	taught	taught
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought
weep	wept	wept
win	won	won

Adding prefixes and suffixes

Sometimes you have to change the way a word is spelt when you add a prefix or a suffix to create a new word.

Prefixes

In most cases you do not have to change the root word when you add a prefix to it. You can usually join the word and the prefix together without making any changes to either:

un- + **successful** = **unsuccessful**

dis- + **obey** = **disobey**

The exception to this is **in-**, which changes depending on the first letter of the root word. You can see more about this on [page 28](#). You can read about the meanings of prefixes on [pages 28–29](#).

Suffixes

It is possible that you will have to change the spelling of the root word when you add a suffix. It depends on the last letter or letters of the root word, and the first letter of the suffix. You can read more about the meanings of suffixes on [pages 30–32](#).

Suffixes beginning with a consonant

If a suffix starts with a consonant, you can add it on to most root words without making any changes to the root word:

-ment agree + **-ment** = agreement

-ness gentle + **-ness** = gentleness

-ful spite + **-ful** = spiteful

-less fear + **-less** = fearless

But watch out for:

argument

If the root word has more than one syllable and ends with a consonant followed by **y**, you change the **y** to **i** and then add the suffix:

merry → **merriment**

silly → **silliness**

plenty → **plentiful**

pity → **pitiless**

The suffix **-ly**

This suffix turns an adjective into an adverb. It can be added straight to adjectives that end in a consonant:

stupid + **-ly** = **stupidly**

usual + **-ly** = **usually**

complete + **-ly** = **completely**

If the adjective has more than one syllable and ends with a consonant followed by **y**, you change the **y** to **i** and then add **-ly**:

happy → **happily**

angry → angrily

If the adjective ends in **le**, you change the **e** to **y**:

gentle → gently

simple → simply

If the adjective ends in **ic**, you add **-ally**:

dramatic → dramatically

basic → basically

But watch out for:

truly

duly

wholly

Suffixes beginning with a vowel

In many cases you can add the suffix without changing the root word:

-able **agree + -able = agreeable**

-ation **inform + -ation = information**

-er **paint + -er = painter**

-ance **perform + -ance = performance**

-ence **correspond + -ence = correspondence**

Some root words with one syllable

If a root word has one syllable and ends in a single vowel followed by a single consonant, double the consonant and add the suffix:

drum → drummer

win → winnable

hug → huggable

Words with more than one syllable

This rule is for root words that have more than one syllable and end in a single vowel followed by a single consonant. If the final syllable is stressed, double the consonant and then add the suffix:

admit → admittance

regret → regrettable

If the final syllable is not stressed, just add the suffix:

limit → limitation

listen → listener

Root words ending in y

If the root word ends in **y** and the letter before it is a consonant, change the **y** to **i** and add the suffix:

deny → deniable

rely → reliance

If the root word ends in **y** and the letter before it is a vowel, just add the suffix:

play → playable

annoy → annoyance

Words ending in silent e

If the letter **e** at the end of a word is not pronounced, we say it is silent, as in **sense** and **live**.

When you add a suffix beginning with a vowel to a root word that ends in silent **e**, you drop the **e** before adding the suffix:

sense → sensible

adore → adorable

prepare → preparation

Adding -able to words ending in ce or ge

You keep the silent **e** when you add **-able** to words that end in **ce** or **ge**:

notice → noticeable

replace → replaceable

change → changeable

manage → manageable

Words ending in fer

If the **fer** part of the word is stressed when the suffix is added, double the **r** and then add the suffix:

refer → referral

defer → deferral

If the **fer** part is not stressed when the suffix is added, just add the suffix:

prefer → preference

transfer → transferable

The suffix -ous

You can add this to some words without any change:

poison → poisonous

cancer → cancerous

mountain → mountainous

Words ending in silent e

If the root word ends in a silent **e**, drop the **e** before adding **-ous**:

fame → famous

carnivore → carnivorous

Words ending in ge

If the root word ends in **ge** and you want to keep the /dʒ/ sound, just add the suffix:

courage → courageous

outrage → outrageous

Words ending in y

If the root word ends in **y**, change the **y** to **i** and add **-ous**:

glory → glorious

fury → furious

harmony → harmonious

But watch out for:

joyous

Words ending in our

If the root word ends in **our**, change it to **or** and then add **-ous**:

humour → humorous

odour → odorous

glamour → glamorous

Adding the suffix -y

You can add **-y** to many words without any change:

rain → rainy

yellow → yellowy

salt → salty

If the root word ends in **e**, drop the e and add **-y**:

whine → whiny

spike → spiky

bone → bony

If the root word has one syllable and ends in a single vowel followed by a single consonant, double the final consonant and then add **-y**:

sun → sunny

fad → faddy

drip → drippy

But watch out for:

boxy

foxy

waxy

sexy

Common endings in words

Some endings often appear in English words. Certain sounds can also be spelt in more than one way.

Words ending in /l/ or /əl/ sound

These are most often spelt with **le**:

table

middle

bottle

fiddle

When it comes after **m**, **n**, **r**, **s**, **v** and **w**, it is spelt **el**:

camel

tunnel

squirrel

travel

It is usually spelt **el** when it comes after **s**:

tinsel

chisel

vessel

easel

Not many words end in **il**:

pencil

council

stencil

fossil

tonsil

April

nostril

peril

Many adjectives end in **al**:

medical

radical

normal

additional

Not many nouns end in **al**:

medal

metal

pedal

capital

animal

hospital

Words ending in /ʃən/ sound

The most common spelling is **tion**:

station

relation

action

adoption

It is used when the root word ends in **t** or **te**.

If the root word ends in **ss** or **mit**, the spelling is **ssion**:

admission

recession

expression

omission

If the root word ends in **d**, **de** or **se**, the spelling is **sion**:

extension

erosion

comprehension

tension

But watch out for:

attend → attention

intend → intention

If the root word ends in **c** or **cs**, the spelling is **cian**:

musician

electrician

politician

optician

Words ending in /ʒən/ sound

This sound is spelt **sion**:

division

invasion

vision

conclusion

Words ending in /ʒə/ sound

This is always spelt **sure**:

measure

pleasure

leisure

composure

Words ending in /tʃe/sound

This is often spelt **ture**:

adventure

fracture

lecture

nature

It can sometimes be spelt **cher** or **tcher**:

teacher

researcher

butcher

catcher

Words ending in /ʃəs/ sound

Some of these are spelt **cious**:

vicious

delicious

ferocious

suspicious

Others are spelt **tious**:

cautious

ambitious

repetitious

fictitious

But watch out for:

anxious

Words ending in /ɪəs/ sound

These are most often spelt **ious**:

hilarious

glorious

serious

mysterious

Some are spelt **eous**:

courteous

spontaneous

simultaneous

hideous

nauseous

Words ending in /ʃəl/ sound

After a vowel this is usually spelt **cial**:

racial

social

special

official

After a consonant this is usually spelt **tial**:

essential

partial

potential

substantial

But watch out for:

initial

provincial

financial

commercial

Choosing between endings

Sometimes you have to choose between endings that sound the same or similar.

Is it ant or ent?

If there is a related word ending in **ation**, use **ant**:

tolerant (toleration)

dominant (domination)

stagnant (stagnation)

This is also true for **ance** and **ancy**:

dominance (domination)

hesitancy (hesitation)

You use **ent** if it comes after **c** when it sounds like /s/, after **g** when it sounds like /dʒ/, or after the letters **qu**:

recent

agent

frequent

This is also true for **ence** and **ency**:

innocence

intelligence

sequence

decency

emergency

delinquency

But watch out for:

assistant

obedient

independent

Is it able or ible?

There are far more words ending in **able** than **ible**.

If there is a related word that ends in **ation**, use **able**:

admirable (admiration)

abominable (abomination)

considerable (consideration)

If an adjective ends in **able**, its adverb ends in **ably**:

admirably

abominably

considerably

A word usually ends in **able** if, when you say it without the ending, the first part of the word sounds like a complete root word:

affordable = afford + able

fashionable = fashion + able

reliable = reli + able (reli sounds like rely)

If you do this and the first part of the word does not sound like a complete root word, the ending is likely to be **ible**:

edible = ed + ible

possible = poss + ible

invisible = invis + ible

But watch out for: **sensible**

If an adjective ends in **ible**, its adverb ends in **ibly**:

horribly

impossibly

irresistibly

Words ending in ough

This is one of the strangest spellings in the English language. It can be pronounced more ways than any other group of letters. You have to learn these words one by one:

/ɔ:/	bought, ought, thought, brought, fought, nought
/ʌf/	rough, tough, enough
/ɒf/	cough
/əʊ/	though
/u:/	through
/ə/	thorough
/aʊ/	plough, bough

Silent letters

English has a number of silent letters. A silent letter is one that you do not pronounce when you say the word out loud. You have to learn most of these word by word.

silent **b** before **t**: **debt doubt**

silent **b** after **m**: **climb dumb numb lamb comb thumb bomb womb**

silent **c** after **s**: **science scissors scene descent muscle**

silent **d**: **handsome handkerchief sandwich**

final silent **e**: **love hate replace tune admire complete recede**

silent **g** before **n**: **gnome gnarled gnat gnaw sign foreign reign**

silent **h** after **g**: **ghost ghastly ghetto gherkin**

silent **h** after **w**: **when wheat whale why what which**

(People with Scottish accents pronounce the **h** after **w**)

silent **h** after **r**: **rhyme rhythm rhino rhombus rhubarb rheumatism**

silent **h** after **c**: **chemical chaos character choir chorus Christmas**

silent **h** at the beginning of a word: **hour honest honour heir**

silent **k** before **n**: **knight knee knife know knit knock kneel**

silent **l** between **a** and **k**: **talk stalk walk chalk**

silent **l** between **a** and **m**: **calm palm qualm balm psalm salmon almond**

silent **l** between **o** and **k**: **folk yolk**

silent **l** between **a** and **f**: **calf half behalf**

silent **l** after **ou**: **could should would**

silent **n** after **m**: **autumn column condemn hymn solemn damn**

silent **p** before **n**: **pneumonia pneumatic**

silent **p** before **s**: **psalm psychiatry psychopath psychology**

silent **s**: **island isle aisle debris**

silent **t**: **listen whistle thistle fasten Christmas mortgage**

silent **w** before **r**: **write wrong wreck wrap wrinkle wrist**

other words with a silent **w**: **two sword answer**

Some very common words that you have to know

A lot of words that we use all the time do not follow any of the normal rules of spelling.

a

an

after

again

any

are

ask

bath

be
beautiful
because
behind
both
break
busy
by
child
children
Christmas
class
climb
clothes
cold
come
could
do
door
even
every
everybody
eye
fast
father
find
floor
friend
full
go
gold
grass
great
half
has
he

her
here
his
hold
hour
house
I
improve
is
kind
last
love
many
me
mind
money
most
move
Mr
Mrs
my
no
of
old
one
once
only
our
pass
parents
past
path
people
plant
poor
pretty

prove
pull
push
put
said
says
school
she
should
so
some
steak
sugar
sure
the
there
they
to
today
told
was
water
we
were
where
who
whole
wild
would
you
your

Homophones

A homophone is a word that sounds the same as another word when you say it. There are a lot of these in English and they can be tricky to sort out.

see	sea
bare	bear
one	won
son	sun
be	bee
blue	blew
night	knight
brake	break
fair	fare
affect	effect
groan	grown
mail	male
meat	meet
missed	mist
peace	piece
plain	plane
rain rein	reign
scene	seen
weather	whether
cereal	serial
past	passed
principle	principal
stationery	stationary
steal	steel

It's and its

It's (with the apostrophe) is a short form of **it is** or **it has**.

Its (without the apostrophe) is a possessive pronoun that means 'belonging to it'.

It's not my fault. (It is not my fault.)

It's been ages since I saw you. (It has been ages since I saw you.)

The horse fell during the race and broke its leg.

If you are not sure whether to use **it's** or **its**, try this. If you replace it in your sentence with **it is** or **it has**, does the sentence still make sense?

I think it's time to go home.

I think it is time to go home.

My football has lost its bounce.

NOT My football has lost it is bounce.

There, their and they're

There is an adverb that tells you about where something is or where it happens.

Their is a possessive pronoun that means 'belonging to them'.

They're is a short form of **they are**.

She was standing over there.

The girls went back for their jackets.

If the children don't hurry up they're going to be late.

To, too and two

To is a preposition that tells you about movement.

Too is an adverb that means 'as well'.

Two is the number between one and three.

We are going to the park.

Mary is coming too.

I have two pounds to spend.

How to improve your spelling

There are a lot of things you can do to help you with your spelling. The rules in this book will help you learn about making plurals, inflecting verbs, comparing adjectives and adding prefixes and suffixes. But there are other things you can do as well.

Check your work

Always read what you have written a few times to see if you can spot any mistakes. If you are not sure how to spell something, check it in a dictionary.

Break it into syllables

If you don't know how to spell a word, break it into syllables and do it one syllable at a time. Sound the phonemes out in your head, or even out loud.

Words within words

When you are reading, look for words contained inside other words, like **get** in **vegetable**, **par** in **separate** and **man** in **permanent**.

Think about word families

If you are stuck on a word, try to think of other words that are in the same word family, for example think about **irritate** if you are not sure how to spell **irritable**.

Look, say, cover, write and check

Do this with any word you do not know:

- **Look** at it carefully.
- **Say** it out loud, listening to how it sounds.
- **Cover** the word and try to remember what it looks like.
- **Write** the word down.
- **Check** what you have written to see if it is right.
- Keep doing this until you can spell it without any mistakes.

Mnemonics

A mnemonic is a way of remembering something. It is pronounced ni-**mon**-ik. They can help you remember difficult groups of letters or silent letters:

big **e**ars are useful **to** you = **beauty**

big **e**lephants **c**an **a**lways **u**nderstand **s**mall **e**lephants = **because**

There is **i**ron in the environment = **e**nvironment

My friend likes **f**ries = **f**riend

Hide those hideous things = **h**ideous

Oh **u** lucky **d**uck = **s**hould, **c**ould, **w**ould

How to use the Spelling Dictionary

1. The headwords in the dictionary are in alphabetical order, making them easy to find.
2. You can see the word class of the headword, for example, noun, verb, adjective or adverb.
3. Notes with an exclamation mark help you to avoid confusing the spelling of one word with another.

Aa

ability *noun* abilities

absent *adjective*

absolute *adjective*

accent *noun* accents

accent *verb* accents, accenting, accented

accept *verb* accepts, accepting, accepted



Do not confuse the spellings of *accept* and *except*: *Please accept my apologies; He works every day except Tuesday*

4. You can see other forms of the headword to help you spell it correctly with different endings.
5. Headwords which have a * symbol are more difficult to spell.
6. Notes with a dot character give useful tips and information to help you spell the word correctly.

access *verb* accesses, accessing, accessed

4

accident *noun* accidents

accidentally* *adverb*

accommodate* *verb* accommodates, accommodating, accommodated

accommodation* *noun*

accompany* *verb* accompanies, accompanying, accompanied

according *adjective*

account *noun* accounts

account *verb* accounts, accounting, accounted

accountant* *noun* accountants

5

ache *noun* aches

ache *verb* aches, aching, ached

achieve* *verb* achieves, achieving, achieved



The *i* comes before the *e* in *achieve*

6

Dictionary

Aa

ability *noun* abilities


absent *adjective*

absolute *adjective*

accent *noun* accents

accent *verb* accents, accenting, accented

accept *verb* accepts, accepting, accepted

 Do not confuse the spellings of *accept* and *except*: Please *accept* my apologies; He works every day *except* Tuesday

access *verb* accesses, accessing, accessed

accident *noun* accidents

accidentally* *adverb*

accommodate* *verb* accommodates, accommodating, accommodated

accommodation* *noun*

accompany* *verb* accompanies, accompanying, accompanied

according *adjective*

account *noun* accounts


account *verb* accounts, accounting, accounted

accountant* *noun* accountants

ache *noun* aches

ache *verb* aches, aching, ached

achieve* *verb* achieves, achieving, achieved

 The *i* comes before the *e* in *achieve*

achievement* *noun* achievements

act *noun* acts

act *verb* acts, acting, acted

active *adjective*

activity *noun* activities

actor *noun* actors

actress *noun* actresses

actually *adverb*

ad *noun* ads

add *verb* adds, adding, added

address *noun* addresses

address *verb* addresses, addressing, addressed

adjective *noun* adjectives

admire *verb* admires, admiring, admired

admission *noun* admissions

admit *verb* admits, admitting, admitted

adult *noun* adults

advantage *noun* advantages

adventure *noun* adventures

adverb *noun* adverbs

advert *noun* adverts

advertise *verb* advertises, advertising, advertised



Some verbs can be spelt ending in either *ise* or *ize*, but *advertise* always has an *s*

advertisement* *noun* advertisements

advertiser *noun* advertisers

advice *noun*



The noun *advice* is spelt with a *c* and the verb *advise* is spelt with an *s*

advise *verb* advises, advising, advised

aeroplane* *noun* aeroplanes

affect *verb* affects, affecting, affected



Do not confuse the spelling of the verb *affect* with the noun *effect*. Something that *affects* you has an *effect* on you

afford *verb* affords, affording, afforded

African *noun* Africans

afternoon *noun* afternoons

age *noun* ages

age *verb* ages, ageing or aging, aged



Ageing and *aging* are both correct spellings

agency *noun* agencies

aggressive *adjective*

agree *verb* agrees, agreeing, agreed

aim *noun* aims

aim *verb* aims, aiming, aimed

air *noun* airs

air *verb* airs, airing, aired

airline *noun* airlines

airport *noun* airports

alarm *noun* alarms

alarm *verb* alarms, alarming, alarmed

album *noun* albums

alcohol *noun* alcohols

alcoholic *noun* alcoholics

allow *verb* allows, allowing, allowed



Do not confuse the spellings of the past tense form *allowed* and the adverb *aloud*, which sound the same

aloud *adverb*

alphabet *noun* alphabets


already *adverb*



Do not confuse the spellings of *already* and *all ready*. *Already* is an adverb. If something has *already* happened, it has happened before the present time: *I've already called an ambulance*. In the phrase **all ready**, *all* means the whole of a group or a thing, and *ready* is an adjective: *Are you all ready to go?*


altar *noun* altars

alter *verb* alters, altering, altered

 Do not confuse the spellings of *alter* and *altar*. *Alter* means to change something: *Nothing was altered today.* An *altar* is the holy table in a church: *The bishop stood in front of the altar*

alternate *adjective*

alternate *verb* alternates, alternating, alternated

 Do not confuse *alternate* and *alternative*. If something happens on *alternate* days, it happens on one day not on the next, then happens again the day after that: *She spends alternate weeks with her father.* You use *alternative* to describe something that can be used, had or done instead of something else: *I suggested an alternative route*

alternative *adjective*

although *conjunction*

amateur *noun* amateurs

ambition *noun* ambitions

ambulance *noun* ambulances

ambulance *noun* ambulancemen


American *noun* Americans

amount *noun* amounts

amount *verb* amounts, amounting, amounted

ancient* *adjective*

angel *noun* angels

 Spelling tip: *an ELEGant angEL*

angry *adjective* angrier, angriest

animal *noun* animals

animation* *noun* animations

ankle *noun* ankles

anniversary* *noun* anniversaries

announce* *verb* announces, announcing, announced

announcement* *noun* announcements

annoy *verb* annoys, annoying, annoyed

annual* *noun* annuals

answer *noun* answers

answer *verb* answers, answering, answered

answerphone *noun* answerphones

ant *noun* ants

antique *noun* antiques

anybody *pronoun*

apartment *noun* apartments

apologize *verb* apologizes, apologizing, apologized



This can also be spelt with *ise*

apology* *noun* apologies

apparent* *adjective*

appear *verb* appears, appearing, appeared

appearance *noun* appearances

apple *noun* apples

application *noun* applications

apply *verb* applies, applying, applied

appointment* *noun* appointments

appreciate *verb* appreciates, appreciating, appreciated

approach *noun* approaches

approach *verb* approaches, approaching, approached

approve *verb* approves, approving, approved

April *noun*

architect* *noun* architects

architecture* *noun*

are *verb*



Do not confuse *are* and *our*, which some people pronounce in the same way

area *noun* areas

aren't




This is short for *are not*. Put the apostrophe between the *n* and the *t*

argue *verb* argues, arguing, argued

argument *noun* arguments

arise *verb* arising, arose, arisen

 Do not confuse *arise* and *rise*. When an opportunity, problem or situation *arises*, it begins to exist: *A difficulty has arisen*. When someone or something *rises*, they move upward: *He rose to greet her*

arm *noun* arms

arm *verb* arms, arming, armed

armchair *noun* armchairs

army *noun* armies

arrange *verb* arranges, arranging, arranged

arrangement *noun* arrangements

arrest *noun* arrests

arrest *verb* arrests, arresting, arrested

arrival *noun* arrivals

arrive *verb* arrives, arriving, arrived

art *noun* arts

article *noun* articles

artist *noun* artists

Asian *noun* Asians

ask *verb* asks, asking, asked

assistant *noun* assistants

at *preposition*

athlete *noun* athletes

atmosphere* *noun* atmospheres

attach *verb* attaches, attaching, attached

attack *noun* attacks

attack *verb* attacks, attacking, attacked

attempt *noun* attempts

attempt *verb* attempts, attempting, attempted

attend *verb* attends, attending, attended

attention *noun*

attitude *noun* attitudes

attract *verb* attracts, attracting, attracted

attraction *noun* attractions

audience* *noun* audiences

August *noun*

aunt *noun* aunts

author *noun* authors

author *verb* authors, authoring, authored

autumn *noun* autumns

available *adjective*

average *noun* averages

average *verb* averages, averaging, averaged

avoid *verb* avoids, avoiding, avoided

awake *verb* awakes, awaking, awoke, awoken

away *adverb*

awkward *adjective*

Bb

baby *noun* babies

back *noun* backs

back *verb* backs, backing, backed

backache *noun* backaches

background *noun* backgrounds

backpack *noun* backpacks

backpacker *noun* backpackers

bacon *noun*

bad *adjective* worse, worst

badly *adverb* worse, worst

badminton* *noun*

bag *noun* bags

bag *verb* bags, bagging, bagged

baggage *noun*

bake *verb* bakes, baking, baked

baker *noun* bakers

baking *noun*

balcony *noun* balconies

bald *adjective* balder, baldest

ball *noun* balls

ballet* *noun*

balloon *noun* balloons

balloon *verb* balloons, ballooning, ballooned

banana *noun* bananas

band *noun* bands

band *verb* bands, banding, banded

bandage *noun* bandages

bandage *verb* bandages, bandaging, bandaged

bank *noun* banks


bank *verb* banks, banking, banked

bar *noun* bars

bar *verb* bars, barring, barred

barber *noun* barbers


bare *adjective* barer, barest

 Do not confuse the adjective *bare* (naked or not covered) with the noun *bear* (the animal)

bargain *noun* bargains

barman *noun* barmen

base *noun* bases

 Do not confuse *base* with *bass*. The *base* of something is its lowest edge or part: *the base of my spine*. A *bass* is a male singer who can sing very low notes. *Bass* instruments play low notes: *Suzi plays bass guitar*

baseball *noun* baseballs

basic *noun* basics

basin *noun* basins

basket *noun* baskets

basketball *noun* basketballs

bass *adjective* bass

bass *noun* basses

bat *noun* bats

bat *verb* bats, batting, batted

bath *noun* baths

bathe *verb* bathes, bathing, bathed

bathroom *noun* bathrooms

battery *noun* batteries

battle *noun* battles


battle *verb* battles, battling, battled

bay *noun* bays

bay *verb* bays, baying, bayed

be *verb* am, is, are, being, was, were, been

beach *noun* beaches

 Do not confuse the spellings of *beach* and *beech*:
a day at the beach; a forest of oak, ash, and beech

bean *noun* beans

bear *noun* bears

bear *verb* bears, bearing, bore, borne


beard *noun* beards

beat *noun* beats


beat *verb* beats, beating, beat, beaten

beautiful *adjective*

beauty *noun* beauties

 Spelling tip: *Beautiful Elephants Are Usually Tiny*

because *conjunction*

 Spelling tip: *Betty Eats Cakes And Uses Seven Eggs*

become *verb* becomes, becoming, became, become

bed *noun* beds

bedroom *noun* bedrooms

bee *noun* bees

beech *noun* beeches


beef *noun*

beer *noun* beers

begin *verb* begins, beginning, began, begun

beginner* *noun* beginners

beginning *noun* beginnings

 Remember that *beginning* has one *g* and two *ns*

behave *verb* behaves, behaving, behaved

behaviour* *noun*

behind *preposition*

being *noun* beings

believe *verb* believes, believing, believed

bell *noun* bells

belong *verb* belongs, belonging, belonged

belt *noun* belts

belt *verb* belts, belting, belted

benefit *noun* benefits

benefit *verb* benefits, benefiting, benefited



Benefit is spelt with two *es*, not two *is*

berth *noun* berths



Do not confuse the spellings of *berth* and *birth*:
The yacht has six berths; the birth of their daughter

beside *preposition*



Do not confuse *beside* and *besides*. *Beside* means ‘next to’: *Put the spoon beside the knife.* *Besides* means ‘in addition to’ or ‘as well’: *He designs houses, offices and much else besides*

besides *preposition, adverb*

best *noun*

better *adjective, adverb*

bicycle *noun* bicycles

bicycle *verb* bicycles, bicycling, bicycled

big *adjective* bigger, biggest

bike *noun* bikes

bike *verb* bikes, biking, biked

bill *noun* bills

bin *noun* bins

biography* *noun* biographies

biology* *noun*

bird *noun* birds

birth *noun* births

birthday *noun* birthdays

biscuit *noun* biscuits

bit *noun* bits

bite *noun* bites

bite *verb* bites, biting, bit, bitten

bitter *adjective* bitterer, bitterest

black *adjective* blacker, blackest



When you are writing about a person or people,
Black should start with a capital letter

blackboard *noun* blackboards

blade *noun* blades

blame *verb* blames, blaming, blamed

blank *adjective* blanker, blankest

blank *noun* blanks

blanket *noun* blankets

bleed *verb* bleeds, bleeding, bled

blind *adjective* blinder, blindest

blind *verb* blinds, blinding, blinded

block *noun* blocks

block *verb* blocks, blocking, blocked

blog *noun* blogs

blog *verb* blogs, blogging, blogged

blogger *noun* bloggers

blonde *adjective* blonder, blondest

blonde *noun* blondes

blood *noun*

blouse *noun* blouses

blow *noun* blows

blow *verb* blows, blowing, blew, blown




Remember that the past tense of *blow* is *blew*.
Don't confuse this with the colour *blue*

blue *adjective* bluer, bluest

blue *noun* blues

board *noun* boards

board *verb* boards, boarding, boarded

 Do not confuse the spellings of *board* and *bored*:
The coin slipped between the boards in the kitchen floor; Lucy was bored without anyone to play with

boat *noun* boats

body *noun* bodies

boil *noun* boils

boil *verb* boils, boiling, boiled

bold *adjective* bolder, boldest

bomb *noun* bombs

bomb *verb* bombs, bombing, bombed

bombing *noun* bombings

bone *noun* bones

bonnet *noun* bonnets

book *noun* books

book *verb* books, booking, booked

bookcase *noun* bookcases

bookseller *noun* booksellers

bookshelf *noun* bookshelves

bookshop *noun* bookshops

boot *noun* boots

border *noun* borders

border *verb* borders, bordering, bordered

bored *adjective*

boring *adjective*

borrow *verb* borrows, borrowing, borrowed

borrower *noun* borrowers

boss *noun* bosses

boss *verb* bosses, bossing, bossed

bother *noun*


bother *verb* bothers, bothering, bothered

bottle *noun* bottles


bottle *verb* bottles, bottling, bottled

bottom *noun* bottoms

bough* *noun* boughs

 Do not confuse *bough* and *bow*. A *bough* is a part of a tree and rhymes with ‘wow’. A *bow* is a knot with loops and rhymes with ‘no’. A *bow* is also the front of a ship and rhymes with ‘cow’

bought *verb*

 Do not confuse *bought* and *brought*. *Bought* comes from *buy* and *brought* comes from *bring*

bow *noun* bows

bow *verb* bows, bowing, bowed

bowl *noun* bowls

bowl *verb* bowls, bowling, bowled

box *noun* boxes

box *verb* boxes, boxing, boxed

boy *noun* boys


boyfriend *noun* boyfriends


bracelet *noun* bracelets

brain *noun* brains

brake *noun* brakes

brake *verb* brakes, braking, braked

 Do not confuse the spellings of *brake* and *break*, or *braking* and *breaking*

 Spelling tip: *there's a rAKE in the brAKEs*

branch *noun* branches

branch *verb* branches, branching, branched

brave *adjective* braver, bravest


brave *noun* braves

brave *verb* braves, braving, braved

bread *noun*

break *noun* breaks


break *verb* breaks, breaking, broke, broken

 Spelling tip: *you'll brEAK that Electrical Aerial, Kitty*

breakfast *noun* breakfasts

breast *noun* breasts

breath *noun* breaths

 Do not confuse the spellings of the noun *breath* and the verb *breathe*: *I took a breath and then started to explain; Breathe deeply and count to ten*

breathe *verb* breathes, breathing, breathed

breeze *noun* breezes

bride *noun* brides

bridge *noun* bridges

bridge *verb* bridges, bridging, bridged

brief *adjective* briefer, briefest

brief *verb* briefs, briefing, briefed

bright *adjective* brighter, brightest

bring *verb* brings, bringing, brought

broad *adjective* broader, broadest

brochure *noun* brochures

brother *noun* brothers

brought *verb*

brown *noun* browns

bruise *noun* bruises

bruise *verb* bruises, bruising, bruised

brush *noun* brushes

brush *verb* brushes, brushing, brushed

bucket *noun* buckets

bug *noun* bugs

bug *verb* bugs, bugging, bugged

build *noun* builds

build *verb* builds, building, built

builder *noun* builders

building *noun* buildings

bull *noun* bulls

bump *noun* bumps

bump *verb* bumps, bumping, bumped

bunch *noun* bunches

bunch *verb* bunches, bunching, bunched

burger *noun* burgers

burn *noun* burns

burn *verb* burns, burning, burnt or burned



You can write either *burned* or *burnt* as the past form of *burn*

burst *noun* bursts

burst *verb* bursts, bursting, burst

bury *verb* buries, burying, buried

bus *noun* buses

business* *noun* businesses

businessman* *noun* businessmen

businesswoman* *noun* businesswomen

busy *adjective* busier, busiest

busy *verb* busies, busying, busied

but *noun* buts

butcher *noun* butchers

butter *noun* butters

butter *verb* butters, buttering, buttered

butterfly *noun* butterflies

button *noun* buttons

button *verb* buttons, buttoning, buttoned

buy *noun* buys

buy *verb* buys, buying, bought

buyer *noun* buyers

by *preposition*



Do not confuse *by* with *bye*: *A play by Shakespeare*; *Bye for now!*

bye *interjection*

Cc

cab *noun* cabs

cabbage *noun* cabbages

cafe *noun* cafes

cafeteria* *noun* cafeterias

cage *noun* cages

cage *verb* cages, caging, caged

cake *noun* cakes

cake *verb* cakes, caking, caked

calculate *verb* calculates, calculating, calculated

calculator* *noun* calculators

calendar *noun* calendars

calf *noun* calves

call *noun* calls

call *verb* calls, calling, called

calm *adjective* calmer, calmest

calm *noun*

calm *verb* calms, calming, calmed

calorie* *noun* calories

camel *noun* camels

camera *noun* cameras

camp *noun* camps

camp *verb* camps, camping, camped

camping *noun*

can *noun* cans

can *verb* cans, canning, canned

canal *noun* canals

cancel *verb* cancels, cancelling, cancelled

cancer *noun* cancers

candidate *noun* candidates

candle *noun* candles

candy *noun* candies

canoe *noun* canoes

canoe *verb* canoes, canoeing, canoed

can't



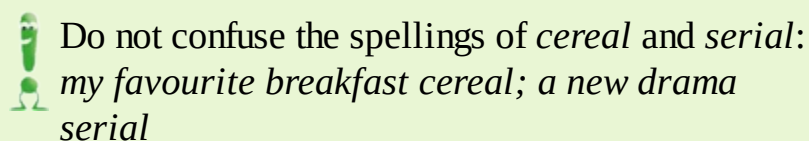
This is short for *can not*. Put the apostrophe between the *n* and the *t*

canteen *noun* canteens

cap *noun* caps

cap *verb* caps, capping, capped

capital *noun* capitals
captain *noun* captains
captain *verb* captains, captaining, captained
car *noun* cars
card *noun* cards
care *noun* cares
care *verb* cares, caring, cared
career *noun* careers
career *verb* careers, careering, careered
carpet *noun* carpets
carrot *noun* carrots
carry *verb* carries, carrying, carried
cartoon *noun* cartoons
case *noun* cases
cash *noun* cash
cashpoint *noun* cashpoints
casino *noun* casinos
castle *noun* castles
casual *adjective*
cat *noun* cats
catch *noun* catches
catch *verb* catches, catching, caught
category* *noun* categories
cave *noun* caves
CD-ROM *noun* CD-ROMs
ceiling *noun* ceilings
celebrate* *verb* celebrates, celebrating, celebrated
celebration* *noun* celebrations
celebrity* *noun* celebrities
cemetery* *noun* cemeteries
cent *noun* cents
centimetre* *noun* centimetres
centre *noun* centres
centre *verb* centres, centring, centred
century *noun* centuries
cereal *noun* cereals

 Do not confuse the spellings of *cereal* and *serial*:
my favourite breakfast cereal; a new drama serial

ceremony *noun* ceremonies

certain *adjective*

certificate* *noun* certificates

chain *noun* chains

chain *verb* chains, chaining, chained

chair *noun* chairs

chair *verb* chairs, chairing, chaired

challenge *noun* challenges

challenge *verb* challenges, challenging, challenged

champagne* *noun* champagnes

champion *noun* champions

champion *verb* champions, championing, championed

championship *noun* championships

chance *noun* chances

chance *verb* chances, chancing, chanced

change *noun* changes

change *verb* changes, changing, changed

channel *noun* channels

channel *verb* channels, channelling, channelled

chapter *noun* chapters

character* *noun* characters

charge *noun* charges

charge *verb* charges, charging, charged

charity *noun* charities

chat *noun* chats

chat *verb* chats, chatting, chatted

cheap *adjective* cheaper, cheapest

check *noun* checks

check *verb* checks, checking, checked

check-in *noun* check-ins

check-out *noun* check-outs

cheek *noun* cheeks

cheer *noun* cheers

cheer *verb* cheers, cheering, cheered

cheese *noun* cheeses

chef *noun* chefs

chemist *noun* chemists

chemistry* *noun*

cheque *noun* cheques

chess *noun*

chicken *noun* chickens

child *noun* children

childhood *noun* childhoods

chilli *noun* chillies

chimney *noun* chimneys

chin *noun* chins

Chinese *adjective*

chip *noun* chips

chip *verb* chips, chipping, chipped


chocolate *noun* chocolates

choice *adjective* choicer, choicest

choice *noun* choices

choose *verb* chooses, choosing, chose, chosen

chord *noun* chords

 Do not confuse the spellings of *chord* and *cord*. A *chord* is a number of musical notes played at the same time and a *cord* is a thin rope

Christmas *noun* Christmases

church *noun* churches

cigar *noun* cigars

cigarette *noun* cigarettes

cinema *noun* cinemas

circle *noun* circles

circle *verb* circles, circling, circled

circus *noun* circuses

city *noun* cities

clap *noun* claps

clap *verb* claps, clapping, clapped

class *noun* classes

class *verb* classes, classing, classed

classmate *noun* classmates

classroom *noun* classrooms

clean *adjective* cleaner, cleanest

clean *verb* cleans, cleaning, cleaned

cleaner *noun* cleaners

clear *adjective* clearer, clearest

clear *verb* clears, clearing, cleared

clever *adjective* cleverer, cleverest

click *noun* clicks

click *verb* clicks, clicking, clicked

climate *noun* climates


climb *noun* climbs

climb *verb* climbs, climbing, climbed

clock *noun* clocks

close *adjective* closer, closest

close *verb* closes, closing, closed

 The adjective *close* is said with an s sound. The verb *close* is said with a z sound, like 'rose'.

cloud *noun* clouds

cloud *verb* clouds, clouding, clouded

cloudy *adjective* cloudier, cloudiest

clown *noun* clowns

clown *verb* clowns, clowning, clowned


club *noun* clubs

club *verb* clubs, clubbing, clubbed

coach *noun* coaches

coach *verb* coaches, coaching, coached

coarse *adjective* coarser, coarsest

 Do not confuse *coarse* with *course*. *Coarse* is an adjective: *The sand was very coarse; His manners are coarse.* *Course* is a noun: *The plane changed course; a course in art history*

coast *noun* coasts

coast *verb* coasts, coasting, coasted

coat *noun* coats

coat *verb* coats, coating, coated

coconut *noun* coconuts

coffee *noun* coffees

coin *noun* coins

coin *verb* coins, coining, coined

cold *adjective* colder, coldest

collar *noun* collars

colleague* *noun* colleagues

collect *verb* collects, collecting, collected

collecting *noun*

collection *noun* collections

college *noun* colleges

colour *noun* colours

colour *verb* colours, colouring, coloured

colouring *noun*

comb *noun* combs

comb *verb* combs, combing, combed

come *verb* comes, coming, came, come



Remember that the past tense of *come* is *came*
and the past participle is *come*

comedy *noun* comedies

comic *noun* comics

comma *noun* commas

comment *noun* comments

comment *verb* comments, commenting, commented

committee* *noun* committees

common *adjective* commoner, commonest

common *noun* commons

communicate *verb* communicates, communicating, communicated

communication *noun* communications

community *noun* communities

company *noun* companies

comparative *noun* comparatives

compare *verb* compares, comparing, compared

compete *verb* competes, competing, competed

competition* *noun* competitions

competitor *noun* competitors

complain *verb* complains, complaining, complained

complaint *noun* complaints

complete *verb* completes, completing, completed

complement *noun* complements

complement *verb* complements, complementing, complemented



Do not confuse *complement* with *compliment*:

*The wine complemented the food; She
complimented me on my work*

compliment *noun* compliments

compliment *verb* compliments, complimenting, complimented

composition *noun* compositions

computer *noun* computers

concentrate* *noun* concentrates

concentrate* *verb* concentrates, concentrating, concentrated

concert *noun* concerts

concert *verb* concerts, concerting, concerted

conclusion* *noun* conclusions

condition *noun* conditions

conference* *noun* conferences

confident *adjective*

confirm *verb* confirms, confirming, confirmed

connect *verb* connects, connecting, connected

conscience* *noun*

conscious* *adjective*

consider *verb* considers, considering, considered

consist *verb* consists, consisting, consisted

consonant* *noun* consonants

contact *noun* contacts

contact *verb* contacts, contacting, contacted

contain *verb* contains, containing, contained

content *noun* contents



content *verb* contents, contenting, contented

contest *noun* contests

contest *verb* contests, contesting, contested

continent* *noun* continents

continual *adjective*

 Do not confuse *continual* with *continuous*.
 *Continual* means that something happens repeatedly and without interruption: *I'm fed up with this continual noise.* *Continuous* is only used for things that happen without interruption and do not stop at all: *He has a continuous buzzing sound in his ear*

continue *verb* continues, continuing, continued

continuous* *adjective*

contract *noun* contracts

contract *verb* contracts, contracting, contracted

control *noun* controls

control *verb* controls, controlling, controlled

controversy *noun* controversies

convenience *noun* conveniences

conversation* *noun* conversations

convince *verb* convinces, convincing, convinced

cook *noun* cooks

cook *verb* cooks, cooking, cooked

cooker *noun* cookers


cool *adjective* cooler, coolest

cool *verb* cools, cooling, cooled

copy *noun* copies

copy *verb* copies, copying, copied

cord *noun* cords

 Do not confuse the spellings of *cord* and *chord*. A *cord* is a thin rope and a *chord* is a number of musical notes played at the same time

corn *noun* corns

corner *noun* corners

corner *verb* corners, cornering, cornered

correct *verb* corrects, correcting, corrected

correction *noun* corrections

correspond *verb* corresponds, corresponding, corresponded

corridor* *noun* corridors

cost *noun* costs

cost *verb* costs, costing, cost, costed

cosy *adjective* cosier, cosiest

cosy *noun* cosies

cottage *noun* cottages

cotton *noun* cottons

cough* *noun* coughs

cough* *verb* coughs, coughing, coughed

could *verb*

couldn't



This is short for *could not*. Put the apostrophe between the *n* and the *t*

councillor *noun* councillors



Do not confuse *councillor* with *counsellor*. A *councillor* is an official in a local council. A *counsellor* gives people advice on personal matters

counsellor *noun* counsellors

count *noun* counts

count *verb* counts, counting, counted

country *noun* countries

couple *noun* couples

couple *verb* couples, coupling, coupled

course *noun* courses



Do not confuse *course* with *coarse*. *Course* is a noun: *The plane changed course; a course in art history*. *Coarse* is an adjective meaning: *The sand was very coarse; His manners are coarse*

court *noun* courts

court *verb* courts, courting, courted

cousin *noun* cousins

cover *noun* covers

cover *verb* covers, covering, covered

cow *noun* cows

cracker *noun* crackers

crash *noun* crashes

crash *verb* crashes, crashing, crashed

crazy *adjective* crazier, craziest

cream *noun* creams

create *verb* creates, creating, created

creature *noun* creatures

credit *noun* credits

credit *verb* credit, crediting, credited

crew *noun* crews

crew *verb* crews, crewing, crewed

cricket *noun* crickets

crime *noun* crimes

criminal *noun* criminals

crisp *adjective* crisper, crispest

crisp *noun* crisps

criticize *verb* criticizes, criticizing, criticized



This can also be spelt with *-ise*

crop *noun* crops

crop *verb* crops, cropping, cropped

cross *noun* crosses

cross *verb* crosses, crossing, crossed

crossing *noun* crossings

crowd *noun* crowds

crowd *verb* crowds, crowding, crowded

cruel *adjective* crueller, cruellest

cruise *noun* cruises

cruise *verb* cruises, cruising, cruised


cry *noun* cries

cry *verb* cries, crying, cried

cucumber *noun* cucumbers

culture *noun* cultures

cue *noun* cues

 Do not confuse the spellings of *cue* and *queue*:
That's the lead singer's cue; a long queue at the bank

cup *noun* cups


cup *verb* cups, cupping, cupped

cupboard *noun* cupboards

curiosity* *noun* curiosities

curly *adjective* curlier, curliest

currant *noun* currants

 Do not confuse *currant* with *current*. A *currant* is a dried grape. Something that is *current* is happening now. A *current* is also a flow of air, water or electricity

current *noun* currents

curriculum* *noun* curricula or curriculums

curry *noun* curries

cursor *noun* cursors

curtain *noun* curtains

cushion *noun* cushions

cushion *verb* cushions, cushioning, cushioned

custom *noun* customs

customer *noun* customers

cut *noun* cuts

cut *verb* cuts, cutting, cut

cycle *noun* cycles

cycle *verb* cycles, cycling, cycled

cyclist *noun* cyclists

Dd

dad *noun* dads

daddy *noun* daddies

daily *adjective*

dairy *noun* dairies

damage *noun* damages

damage *verb* damages, damaging, damaged

damn *verb* damns, damning, damned

dance *noun* dances

dance *verb* dances, dancing, danced

dancer *noun* dancers

danger *noun* dangers

dark *adjective* darker, darkest

date *noun* dates

date *verb* dates, dating, dated

daughter *noun* daughters

day *noun* days

deaf *adjective* deafer, deafest

dear *adjective* dearer, dearest

dear *noun* dears



Do not confuse *dear* with *deer*. *Dear* means expensive or loved. A *deer* is an animal

death *noun* deaths

debt *noun* debts

December *noun*

decide *verb* decides, deciding, decided

decision* *noun* decisions

decorate* *verb* decorates, decorating, decorated

decrease *noun* decreases

decrease *verb* decreases, decreasing, decreased

deep *adjective* deeper, deepest

defeat *noun* defeats

defeat *verb* defeats, defeating, defeated

defence *noun* defences

defend *verb* defends, defending, defended

definite *adjective*



There is no *a* in *definite* or *definitely*. Spelling tip: *inFINITY* is *deFINITE*



Do not confuse *definite* and *definitive*. If something is *definite*, it is firm and clear and not likely to be changed: *Do we have a definite date*

*for the meeting? Something that is **definitive** is accepted by everyone as being correct: *No one has come up with a definitive answer**

definitive *adjective*

degree *noun* degrees

delay *noun* delays

delay *verb* delays, delaying, delayed

delete *verb* deletes, deleting, deleted

deliberate* *verb* deliberates, deliberating, deliberated

deliver *verb* delivers, delivering, delivered

delivery* *noun* deliveries

demand *noun* demands

demand *verb* demands, demanding, demanded

dentist *noun* dentists


depart *verb* departs, departing, departed

department *noun* departments

departure *noun* departures

depend *verb* depends, depending, depended

dependant *noun* dependants

 Do not confuse *dependant* and *dependent*. Your *dependants* are the people you are financially responsible for: *He is unmarried and has no dependants*. If you are *dependent* on someone or something, you rely on them: *Their economy is dependent on oil*

dependent *adjective*


depth *noun* depths

describe *verb* describes, describing, described

description* *noun* descriptions

desert *noun* deserts

desert *verb* deserts, deserting, deserted

 Do not confuse the spellings of *desert* and *dessert*: *The residents are ready to desert the city; What would you like for dessert?*

deserve *verb* deserves, deserving, deserved

design *noun* designs

design *verb* designs, designing, designed

designer *noun* designers

desk *noun* desks

desperate *adjective*

despite *preposition*

dessert *noun* desserts

destination* *noun* destinations

destroy *verb* destroys, destroying, destroyed

detail *noun* details

detective *noun* detectives

determined *adjective*

develop *verb* develops, developing, developed

development* *noun* developments

device *noun* devices



 Do not confuse the spellings of the noun *device* and the verb *devise*: *a device for picking up litter; They need to devise a new plan to deal with unemployment*

diagram *noun* diagrams

dial *noun* dials


dial *verb* dials, dialling, dialled

diary *noun* diaries


 Do not confuse the order of the vowels in *diary* and *dairy*

dictionary *noun* dictionaries

didn't

 This is short for *did not*. Put the apostrophe between the *n* and the *t*

die *verb* dies, dying, died

 Change the *ie* to *y* and add *ing* for *dying*

diet *noun* diets

diet *verb* diets, dieting, dieted

difference *noun* differences

different *adjective*

difficult *adjective*

difficulty* *noun* difficulties

dig *noun* digs

dig *verb* digs, digging, dug

digital *adjective*

dinner *noun* dinners

dinosaur* *noun* dinosaurs

diploma *noun* diplomas

direct *verb* directs, directing, directed

direction *noun* directions

director *noun* directors

dirty *adjective* dirtier, dirtiest

dirty *verb* dirties, dirtying, dirtied

disadvantage* *noun* disadvantages

disagree *verb* disagrees, disagreeing, disagreed

disappear *verb* disappears, disappearing, disappeared

disappoint* *verb* disappoints, disappointing, disappointed

disappointment* *noun* disappointments

disaster *noun* disasters

disastrous *adjective*

disc *noun* discs

discipline *noun* disciplines

discipline *verb* disciplines, disciplining, disciplined


disco *noun* discos

discount *noun* discounts

discount *verb* discounts, discounting, discounted

discover *verb* discovers, discovering, discovered

discreet* *adjective*

 Do not confuse *discreet* and *discrete*. If you are *discreet*, you are careful to avoid attracting attention or revealing private information: *I made a few discreet inquiries about her*. If things are *discrete*, they are not joined or connected in any way: *I met him on three discrete occasions*

discrete* *adjective*

discuss* *verb* discusses, discussing, discussed

discussion* *noun* discussions

disease *noun* diseases

dish *noun* dishes

dish *verb* dishes, dishing, dished

dishcloth *noun* dishcloths

dishwasher *noun* dishwashers

disk *noun* disks

dislike *noun* dislikes

dislike *verb* dislikes, disliking, disliked

display *noun* displays

display *verb* displays, displaying, displayed

distance *noun* distances

distance *verb* distances, distancing, distanced

district *noun* districts

disturb *verb* disturbs, disturbing, disturbed

dive *noun* dives

dive *verb* dives, diving, dived

diver *noun* divers

divide *verb* divides, dividing, divided

diving *noun*

divorce *noun* divorces

divorce *verb* divorces, divorcing, divorced

DJ *noun* DJs

do *verb* does, doing, did, done

doctor *noun* doctors

doctor *verb* doctors, doctoring, doctored

document *noun* documents

document *verb* documents, documenting, documented

documentary* *noun* documentaries

doesn't



This is short for *does not*. Put the apostrophe between the *n* and the *t*

dog *noun* dogs

dog *verb* dogs, dogging, dogged

doll *noun* dolls

dollar *noun* dollars

donkey *noun* donkeys

don't



This is short for *do not*. Put the apostrophe between the *n* and the *t*

door *noun* doors

dot *noun* dots

dot *verb* dots, dotting, dotted

double *noun* doubles

double *verb* doubles, doubling, doubled

double-click *verb* double-clicks, double-clicking, double-clicked

doubt* *noun* doubts

doubt* *verb* doubts, doubting, doubted

down *verb* downs, downing, downed

download *verb* downloads, downloading, downloaded

dozen *noun* dozens

draft *noun* drafts

draft *verb* drafts, drafting, drafted



Do not confuse *draft* with *draught*. A *draft* is a first version of a speech or book, and to *draft* something is to complete a version of it. A *draught* is a current of air

drag *verb* drags, dragging, dragged

drama *noun* dramas

draught *noun* draughts

draw *verb* draws, drawing, drew, drawn

drawer *noun* drawers

drawing *noun* drawings

dream *noun* dreams

dream *verb* dreams, dreaming, dreamt or dreamed

dress *noun* dresses

dress *verb* dresses, dressing, dressed

drink *noun* drinks

drink *verb* drinks, drinking, drank, drunk

drive *noun* drives

drive *verb* drives, driving, drove, driven

driver *noun* drivers

drop *noun* drops

drop *verb* drops, dropping, dropped

drove *noun* droves

drum *noun* drums

drum *verb* drums, drumming, drummed

drunk *adjective* drunker, drunkest

drunk *noun* drunks

dry *adjective* drier or dryer, driest or dryest

dry *verb* dries, drying, dried

duck *noun* ducks

duck *verb* ducks, ducking, ducked

due *adjective*

dug *verb*

dull *adjective* duller, duller

dull *verb* dulls, dulling, dulled

dust *verb* dusts, dusting, dusted

dustbin *noun* dustbins

dusty *adjective* dustier, dustiest

duty *noun* duties

duvet *noun* duvets

DVD *noun* DVDs

Ee

ear *noun* ears

early *adjective* earlier, earliest

earn *verb* earns, earning, earned

earring *noun* earrings

earth *noun*

east *noun*

easy *adjective* easier, easiest

eat *verb* eats, eating, ate, eaten



Remember that the past tense of *eat* is *ate*

edge *noun* edges

edge *verb* edges, edging, edged

education *noun* educations

effect *noun* effects



Do not confuse the spelling of the noun *effect* with the verb *affect*. Something that *affects* you has an *effect* on you

effort *noun* efforts

egg *noun* eggs

eight *noun* eights

eighteen *noun* eighteens

eighteenth *noun* eighteenth

eighth *noun* eighths

eightieth *noun* eightieths

eighty *noun* eighties

elbow *noun* elbows

elbow *verb* elbows, elbowing, elbowed

elder *noun* elders

elder *adjective*



Do not confuse *elder* and *older*. *Elder* is used when you are saying which of two people was born first. It is not used with *than*: *I live with my elder sister; He is the elder of the two.* *Older* simply means 'more old', and can be used of people or things, and can be followed by *than*: *My car is older than yours*

election *noun* elections

electric *noun* electrics

element *noun* elements

elephant* *noun* elephants

elevator *noun* elevators

eleven *noun* elevens

eleventh *noun* elevenths

e-mail *noun* e-mails

e-mail *verb* e-mails, e-mailing, e-mailed

embarrass* *verb* embarrasses, embarrassing, embarrassed

embassy* *noun* embassies

emergency* *noun* emergencies

emphasis *noun* emphases

employ *verb* employs, employing, employed

employee *noun* employees

employer *noun* employers

employment *noun*

empty *adjective* emptier, emptiest

empty *verb* empties, emptying, emptied

encourage *verb* encourages, encouraging, encouraged

end *noun* ends

end *verb* ends, ending, ended

ending *noun* endings

enemy *noun* enemies

energy *noun* energies

engine *noun* engines

engineer *noun* engineers

engineer *verb* engineers, engineering, engineered

enjoy *verb* enjoys, enjoying, enjoyed

enough *adverb*

enter *verb* enters, entering, entered

entertain *verb* entertains, entertaining, entertained

entertainment* *noun* entertainments

entrance *noun* entrances

entrance *verb* entrances, entrancing, entranced

entry *noun* entries

envelope *noun* envelopes

environment *noun* environments



There is an *n* before the *m* in *environment*

equal *noun* equals

equal *verb* equals, equalling, equalled

equip *verb* equips, equipping, equipped

equipment *noun*

eraser *noun* erasers

escape *noun* escapes

escape *verb* escapes, escaping, escaped

especially *adverb*

essay *noun* essays

essential* *noun* essentials

euro *noun* euros

European *noun* Europeans

even *adjective*

even *verb* evens, evening, evened

evening *noun* evenings

event *noun* events

exact *verb* exacts, exacting, exacted

exaggerate* *verb* exaggerates, exaggerating, exaggerated

exam *noun* exams

examination *noun* examinations

examiner *noun* examiners

example *noun* examples

excellent *adjective*

except *preposition*



Do not confuse the spellings of *except* and *accept*:
He works every day except Tuesday;
Please accept my apologies

exchange *noun* exchanges

exchange *verb* exchanges, exchanging, exchanged

excite *verb* excites, exciting, excited

excitement *noun*

excuse *noun* excuses

excuse *verb* excuses, excusing, excused

exercise *noun* exercises

exercise *verb* exercises, exercising, exercised

exhibition *noun* exhibitions

exist *verb* exists, existing, existed

existence* *noun* existences

exit *noun* exits

exit *verb* exits, exiting, exited

expect *verb* expects, expecting, expected

expedition* *noun* expeditions

experience *noun* experiences

experience *verb* experiences, experiencing, experienced

experiment* *noun* experiments

experiment* *verb* experiments, experimenting, experimented

expert *noun* experts

explain *verb* explains, explaining, explained

explanation *noun* explanations

explode *verb* explodes, exploding, exploded

explore *verb* explores, exploring, explored

explorer *noun* explorers

explosion *noun* explosions

extra *noun* extras

extreme *noun* extremes

eye *noun* eyes

eye *verb* eyes, eyeing or eying, eyed

Ff

face *noun* faces

face *verb* faces, facing, faced

fact *noun* facts

factory *noun* factories

fail *noun* fails

fail *verb* fails, failing, failed

fair *adjective* fairer, fairest

fair *noun* fairs

fall *noun* falls

fall *verb* falls, falling, fell, fallen



Remember that the past tense of *fall* is *fell*

false *adjective* falser, falsest

familiar *adjective*

family *noun* families

famous *adjective*

fan *noun* fans

fan *verb* fans, fanning, fanned

fancy *adjective* fancier, fanciest

fancy *noun* fancies

fancy *verb* fancies, fancying, fancied

fantastic *noun*

far *adjective* farther or further, farthest or furthest

fare *noun* fares

fare *verb* fares, faring, fared

farm *noun* farms

farm *verb* farms, farming, farmed

farmer *noun* farmers

fashion *noun* fashions

fashion *verb* fashions, fashioning, fashioned

fast *adjective* faster, fastest

fast *noun* fasts

fast *verb* fasts, fasting, fasted

fasten *verb* fastens, fastening, fastened

fat *adjective* fatter, fattest

fat *noun* fats

father *noun* fathers

father *verb* fathers, fathering, fathered

fault *noun* faults

fault *verb* faults, faulting, faulted

favour *noun* favours

favour *verb* favours, favouring, favoured

favourite *noun* favourites

fax *noun* faxes

fax *verb* faxes, faxing, faxed

fear *noun* fears

fear *verb* fears, fearing, feared

feat *noun* feats



Do not confuse *feat* with *feet*. A *feat* is an achievement. *Feet* is the plural of *foot*

February *noun*

fed *verb*

fee *noun* fees

feed *noun* feeds

feed *verb* feeds, feeding, fed

feel *verb* feels, feeling, felt



Remember that the past tense of *feel* is *felt*

feeling *noun* feelings

feet *plural noun*

fell *verb*

felt *noun*

female *noun* females

ferry *noun* ferries

ferry *verb* ferries, ferrying, ferried

festival *noun* festivals

fetch *verb* fetches, fetching, fetched

fever *noun* fevers

few *adjective* fewer, fewest

fiction *noun* fictions

field *noun* fields

field *verb* fields, fielding, fielded

fifteen *noun* fifteens

fifteenth *noun* fifteenths

fifth *noun* fifths

fiftieth *noun* fiftieths

fifty *noun* fifties

fight *noun* fights

fight *verb* fights, fighting, fought



Remember that the past tense of *fight* is *fought*

figure *noun* figures

figure *verb* figures, figuring, figured

file *noun* files

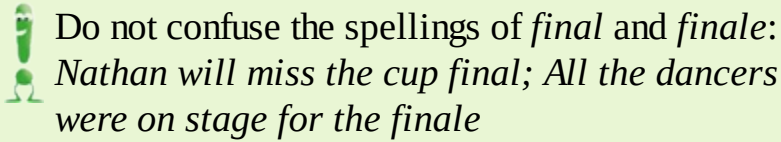
file *verb* files, filing, filed

fill *verb* fills, filling, filled

film *noun* films

film *verb* films, filming, filmed

final *noun* finals

 Do not confuse the spellings of *final* and *finale*:
*Nathan will miss the cup final; All the dancers
were on stage for the finale*

finale *noun* finales

find *noun* finds

find *verb* finds, finding, found

fine *adjective* finer, finest

fine *noun* fines

fine *verb* fines, fining, fined

finger *noun* fingers

finger *verb* fingers, fingering, fingered

finish *noun* finishes

finish *verb* finishes, finishing, finished

fire *noun* fires

fire *verb* fires, firing, fired

fireman *noun* firemen

firm *adjective* firmer, firmest

firm *noun* firms

first *noun* firsts

fish *noun* fish or fishes

fish *verb* fishes, fishing, fished

fisherman *noun* fishermen

fit *adjective* fitter, fittest

fit *noun* fits

fit *verb* fits, fitting, fitted

five *noun* fives

fix *noun* fixes

fix *verb* fixes, fixing, fixed

flag *noun* flags

flag *verb* flags, flagging, flagged

flame *noun* flames

flat *adjective* flatter, flattest


flat *noun* flats

flavour *noun* flavours


flavour *verb* flavours, flavouring, flavoured

flea *noun* fleas

flee *verb* flees, fleeing, fled

 Do not confuse the spellings of *flee* and *flea*. To *flee* is to run away. A *flea* is a small insect

flew *verb*

 Do not confuse the spellings of *flew* and *flue*: *I flew home last week; The flue needs cleaned*

flight *noun* flights

float *noun* floats

float *verb* floats, floating, floated


flood *noun* floods

flood *verb* floods, flooding, flooded

floor *noun* floors

floor *verb* floors, flooring, floored

flour *noun* flours

 Do not confuse the spellings of *flour* and *flower*:
You need flour to make bread; The tulip is my favourite flower

flow *noun* flows

flow *verb* flows, flowing, flowed

flower *noun* flowers

flower *verb* flowers, flowering, flowered

flue *noun* flues

flute *noun* flutes

fly *noun* flies

fly *verb* flies, flying, flew, flown

fog *noun* fogs

fold *noun* folds

fold *verb* folds, folding, folded

folder *noun* folders

folk *noun* folk or folks

follow *verb* follows, following, followed

following *noun* followings

fond *adjective* fonder, fondest

food *noun* foods

fool *noun* fools

fool *verb* fools, fooling, fooled

foot *noun* feet

foot *verb* foots, footing, footed

football *noun* footballs

footballer *noun* footballers

force *noun* forces

force *verb* forces, forcing, forced

forecast *noun* forecasts

forecast *verb* forecasts, forecasting, forecast or forecasted

forehead *noun* foreheads

foreign* *adjective*

foreigner* *noun* foreigners

forest *noun* forests

forget *verb* forgets, forgetting, forgot, forgotten

forgive *verb* forgives, forgiving, forgave, forgiven

fork *noun* forks

fork *verb* forks, forking, forked

form *noun* forms

form *verb* forms, forming, formed

former *adjective*

forth *adverb*

fortieth *noun* fortieths

fortnight *noun* fortnights

forty *noun* forties

forward *verb* forwards, forwarding, forwarded

found *verb* founds, founding, founded

fountain *noun* fountains

four *noun* fours

fourteen *noun* fourteens

fourth *noun* fourths



Do not confuse the spellings of *fourth* and *forth*:
This is the *fourth* time you have been late; They

set forth at the beginning of June


frame *noun* frames

frame *verb* frames, framing, framed

free *adjective* freer, freest

free *verb* frees, freeing, freed

freeze *verb* freezes, freezing, froze, frozen

 Do not confuse the spellings of *freeze* and *frieze*:
Freeze raw meat on the day you buy it; an intricate plaster frieze


freezer *noun* freezers

frequent *verb* frequents, frequenting, frequented

frequently *adverb*

fresh *adjective* fresher, freshest

Friday *noun* Fridays

 Spelling tip: *I always visit my FRIend on a FRIday*

fridge *noun* fridges

friend *noun* friends

friendly *adjective* friendlier, friendliest

friendship *noun* friendships

frieze *noun* friezes

frog *noun* frogs

front *noun* fronts

fruit *noun* fruits

fry *noun* fries

fry *verb* fries, frying, fried

fuel *noun* fuels

fuel *verb* fuels, fuelling, fuelled

full *adjective* fuller, fullest

fun *noun*

funny *adjective* funnier, funniest

fur *noun* furs

further *verb* furthers, furthering, furthered

future *noun* futures

Gg

gain *noun* gains

gain *verb* gains, gaining, gained

gallery *noun* galleries

game *adjective* gamer, gamest

game *noun* games

game *verb* games, gaming, gamed

gap *noun* gaps

garage *noun* garages

garden *noun* gardens

garden *verb* gardens, gardening, gardened

gas *noun* gases

gas *verb* gasses, gassing, gassed



The plural of the noun *gas* is *gases*. The verb forms of *gas* are spelt with a double s

gate *noun* gates

gay *adjective* gayer, gayest

general *noun* generals

generation* *noun* generations

gentle *adjective* gentler, gentlest

geography* *noun*

German *noun* Germans

get *verb* gets, getting, got

ghost *noun* ghosts

giant *noun* giants

gift *noun* gifts

gift *verb* gifts, gifting, gifted

giraffe* *noun* giraffes

girl *noun* girls

girlfriend *noun* girlfriends

give *verb* gives, giving, gave, given

glad *adjective* gladder, gladdest

glance *noun* glances

glance *verb* glances, glancing, glanced

glass *noun* glasses

glove *noun* gloves

go *noun* goes

go *verb* goes, going, went, gone



Remember that the past tense of *go* is *went*

goal *noun* goals

goalkeeper *noun* goalkeepers

goat *noun* goats

god *noun* gods

gold *noun*

golf *verb* golfs, golfing, golfed

golfer *noun* golfers

good *adjective* better, best

good *noun* goods

goodbye *interjection*

government* *noun* governments

grab *noun* grabs

grab *verb* grabs, grabbing, grabbed

grade *noun* grades

grade *verb* grades, grading, graded

graduation* *noun* graduations

gram *noun* grams

grammar* *noun*

grandad *noun* grandads

grandchild *noun* grandchildren

granddaughter *noun* granddaughters

grandfather *noun* grandfathers

grandma *noun* grandmas

grandmother *noun* grandmothers

grandpa *noun* grandpas

grandparent *noun* grandparents

grandson *noun* grandsons

granny *noun* grannies

grant *noun* grants

grant *verb* grants, granting, granted

grape *noun* grapes


grapefruit *noun* grapefruits or grapefruit

grass *noun* grasses

grate *noun* grates

grate *verb* grates, grating, grated

great *adjective* greater, greatest

 Do not confuse the spellings of *great* and *grate*:
the great Amazon River; the fire behind the grate; Grate 250g of cheddar

Greek *noun* Greeks

green *adjective* greener, greenest

green *noun* greens

greengrocer *noun* greengrocers

greet *verb* greets, greeting, greeted

greeting *noun* greetings


grey *adjective* greyer, greyest

grey *noun* greys

grey *verb* greys, greying, greyed

grill *noun* grills

grill *verb* grills, grilling, grilled

 Do not confuse the spellings of *grill* and *grille*:
Brown the bread under the grill for a minute; a well covered with an iron grille

grille *noun* grilles

grocer *noun* grocers

grocery *noun* groceries

groom *noun* grooms

groom *verb* grooms, grooming, groomed

ground *noun* grounds

ground *verb* grounds, grounding, grounded

group *noun* groups

group *verb* groups, grouping, grouped

grow *verb* grows, growing, grew, grown

grower *noun* growers

guarantee* *noun* guarantees

guarantee* *verb* guarantees, guaranteeing, guaranteed

guard *noun* guards

guard *verb* guards, guarding, guarded

guess *noun* guesses

guess *verb* guesses, guessing, guessed

guest *noun* guests

guide *noun* guides

guide *verb* guides, guiding, guided

guilty *adjective* guiltier, guiltiest

guitar *noun* guitars

guitarist* *noun* guitarists

gum *noun* gums

gun *noun* guns

gun *verb* guns, gunning, gunned

guy *noun* guys

gym *noun* gyms

Hh

habit *noun* habits

hadn't



This is short for *had not*. Put the apostrophe between the *n* and the *t*

hair *noun* hairs

hairbrush *noun* hairbrushes

haircut *noun* haircuts

hairdresser *noun* hairdressers

hairdryer *noun* hairdryers

hairstyle *noun* hairstyles

half *noun* halves

hall *noun* halls

halve *verb* halves, halving, halved

ham *noun* hams

hamburger *noun* hamburgers

hand *noun* hands

hand *verb* hands, handing, handed

handbag *noun* handbags

handball *noun* handballs

handkerchief *noun* handkerchiefs

handle *noun* handles

handle *verb* handles, handling, handled

handsome *adjective* handsomer, handsomest



There is a *d* in *handsome*

hang *verb* hangs, hanging, hung or hanged

happen *verb* happens, happening, happened

happy *adjective* happier, happiest

harass *verb* harasses, harassing, harassed

harbour *noun* harbours

harbour *verb* harbours, harbouring, harboured

hard *adjective* harder, hardest

hasn't



This is short for *has not*. Put the apostrophe between the *n* and the *t*

hat *noun* hats

hate *noun* hates

hate *verb* hates, hating, hated

have *noun* haves

have *verb* has, having, had

haven't



This is short for *have not*. Put the apostrophe between the *n* and the *t*

he *pronoun*

head *noun* heads

head *verb* heads, heading, headed

headache* *noun* headaches

headline *noun* headlines

healthy *adjective* healthier, healthiest

hear *verb* hears, hearing, heard



Do not confuse the spellings of *hear* and *here*: *I hear a dog barking; Come over here*

Do not confuse the spellings of *heard* and *herd*: *I*

thought I heard the phone; a herd of buffalo

heart *noun* hearts

heat *verb* heats, heating, heated

heater *noun* heaters

heavy *adjective* heavier, heaviest

he'd



This is short for *he would* or *he had*. Put the apostrophe between the *e* and the *d*

heel *noun* heels

heel *verb* heels, heeling, heeled

height* *noun* heights

helicopter *noun* helicopters

he'll



This is short for *he will*. Put the apostrophe between the *e* and the *l*

hello *noun* hellos

help *verb* helps, helping, helped

herb *noun* herbs

herd *noun* herds

here *adverb*

he's



This is short for *he is* or *he has*. Put the apostrophe between the *e* and the *s*

hide *noun* hides

hide *verb* hides, hiding, hid, hidden

high *adjective* higher, highest

high *noun* highs

hill *noun* hills

hindrance *noun* hindrances

hire *verb* hires, hiring, hired

history *noun* histories

hit *noun* hits

hit *verb* hits, hitting, hit

hobby *noun* hobbies


hockey *noun*

hold *noun* holds

hold *verb* holds, holding, held

hole *noun* holes

hole *verb* holes, holing, holed


 Do not confuse the spellings of *hole* and *whole*:
You have a hole in your sock; Emily was away for the whole of July

holiday *noun* holidays

holiday *verb* holidays, holidaying, holidayed

home *noun* homes

home *verb* homes, homing, homed

 Do not confuse the spellings of *home* and *hone*:
The police are homing in on a suspect; He spent hours honing his basketball skills

homicide* *noun* homicides

hone *verb* hones, honing, honed

honey *noun* honeys

honeymoon *noun* honeymoons

hope *noun* hopes

hope *verb* hopes, hoping, hoped

hopeful *adjective*

horror *noun* horrors

horse *noun* horses

hospital *noun* hospitals

hostel *noun* hostels

hot *adjective* hotter, hottest

hotel *noun* hotels

hour *noun* hours

house *noun* houses

house *verb* houses, housing, housed

housewife *noun* housewives

how *adverb*

hug *noun* hugs

hug *verb* hugs, hugging, hugged

huge *adjective* huger, hugest

human *noun* humans

hundred *noun* hundreds

hundredth *noun* hundredths

hunger *verb* hungers, hungering, hungered

hungry *adjective* hungrier, hungriest

hunt *noun* hunts

hunt *verb* hunts, hunting, hunted

hurry *verb* hurries, hurrying, hurried

hurt *verb* hurts, hurting, hurt

husband *noun* husbands

hut *noun* huts

hyphen *noun* hyphens

hyphen *verb* hyphens, hyphening, hyphenated

Ii

I *pronoun*

ice *noun* ices

ice *verb* ices, icing, iced

icy *adjective* icier, iciest

ID *noun* IDs

I'd



This is short for *I would* or *I had*. Put the apostrophe between the *I* and the *d*

idea *noun* ideas

identification* *noun* identifications

identify *verb* identifies, identifying, identified

identity *noun* identities

if *conjunction*

ill *noun* ills

I'll



This is short for *I will* or *I shall*. Put the apostrophe between the *I* and the first *l*

illness *noun* illnesses

I'm



This is short for *I am*. Put the apostrophe between the *I* and the *m*

imagination *noun* imaginations

imagine *verb* imagines, imagining, imagined

immediately *adverb*

immigration *noun*

importance *noun*

important *adjective*

improve *verb* improves, improving, improved

improvement *noun* improvements

inbox *noun* inboxes

include *verb* includes, including, included

increase *noun* increases

increase *verb* increases, increasing, increased

independent *adjective*

individual* *noun* individuals

industry *noun* industries

infinitive* *noun* infinitives

inform *verb* informs, informing, informed

information* *noun*

ingredient *noun* ingredients

initial *noun* initials

initial *verb* initials, initialling, initialled

ink *noun* inks

inquiry *noun* inquiries

insect *noun* insects

inside *noun* insides

insist *verb* insists, insisting, insisted

installation *noun* installations

install *verb* installs, installing, installed

instance *noun* instances

instruction *noun* instructions

instructor *noun* instructors

instrument *noun* instruments

intend *verb* intends, intending, intended

interest *noun* interests

interest *verb* interests, interesting, interested

interfere *verb* interferes, interfering, interfered

intermediate* *noun* intermediates

international *noun* internationals

interrupt* *noun* interrupts

interrupt* *verb* interrupts, interrupting, interrupted

interval *noun* intervals

interview *noun* interviews

interview *verb* interviews, interviewing, interviewed

interviewer *noun* interviewers

introduce *verb* introduces, introducing, introduced

invent *verb* invents, inventing, invented

invention *noun* inventions

invitation *noun* invitations

invite *verb* invites, inviting, invited

involve *verb* involves, involving, involved

iron *noun* irons

iron *verb* irons, ironing, ironed

ironing *noun*

irregular* *adjective*

island *noun* islands

isn't



This is short for *is not*. Put the apostrophe between the *n* and the *t*

issue *noun* issues

issue *verb* issues, issuing, issued

it *pronoun*

item *noun* items

it'll



This is short for *it will*. Put the apostrophe between the *t* and the first *l*

its *determiner*

it's



This is short for *it is*. Put the apostrophe between the *t* and the *s*. *It's going to be difficult to fit all this work in.*
Do not confuse with *its*. *Its* means 'belonging to it':
The dog wagged its tail.

I've



This is short for *I have*. Put the apostrophe between the *I* and the *v*

Jj

jacket *noun* jackets

jail *noun* jails

jail *verb* jails, jailing, jailed

jam *noun* jams

jam *verb* jams, jamming, jammed

January *noun*

Japanese* *adjective*

jar *noun* jars

jar *verb* jars, jarring, jarred

jazz *verb* jazzes, jazzing, jazzed

jealous *adjective*

jet *noun* jets

jet *verb* jets, jetting, jetted

jewel *noun* jewels

jewellery* *noun*

job *noun* jobs

jog *noun* jogs

jog *verb* jogs, jogging, jogged

join *noun* joins

join *verb* joins, joining, joined

joke *noun* jokes

joke *verb* jokes, joking, joked

journalist *noun* journalists

journey *noun* journeys

journey *verb* journeys, journeying, journeyed

judge *noun* judges

judge *verb* judges, judging, judged

jug *noun* jugs

juice *noun* juices

juice *verb* juices, juicing, juiced

juicy *adjective* juicier, juiciest

July *noun*

jump *noun* jumps

jump *verb* jumps, jumping, jumped

jumper *noun* jumpers

June *noun*

jungle *noun* jungles

Kk

kangaroo *noun* kangaroos

keen *adjective* keener, keenest

keen *verb* keens, keening, keened

keep *noun* keeps

keep *verb* keeps, keeping, kept



Remember that the past tense of *keep* is *kept*

key *noun* keys

key *verb* keys, keying, keyed

kg *abbreviation* kgs

kill *verb* kills, killing, killed

killer *noun* killers

kilo *noun* kilos

kilogram *noun* kilograms

kilometre* *noun* kilometres

kind *adjective* kinder, kindest

kind *noun* kinds

king *noun* kings

kiss *noun* kisses

kiss *verb* kisses, kissing, kissed

kit *noun* kits

kit *verb* kits, kitting, kitted

kitchen *noun* kitchens

knee *noun* knees

knee *verb* knees, kneeling, kneeed



Remember the silent *k*

knife *noun* knives

knife *verb* knifes, knifing, knifed



Remember the silent *k*

knock *noun* knocks

knock *verb* knocks, knocking, knocked



Remember the silent *k*

know *verb* knows, knowing, knew, known



Do not confuse the spellings of *know* and *now*: *I think I know that girl; Lunch is ready now*



Remember the silent *k*

knowledge *noun*

Ll

lab *noun* labs

label *noun* labels

label *verb* labels, labelling, labelled

laboratory* *noun* laboratories

lack *verb* lacks, lacking, lacked

ladder *noun* ladders

lady *noun* ladies

lake *noun* lakes

lamb *noun* lambs

lamp *noun* lamps

land *noun* lands

land *verb* lands, landing, landed

lane *noun* lanes

language *noun* languages

large *adjective* larger, largest

last *verb* lasts, lasting, lasted

late *adjective* later, latest


laugh *noun* laughs

laugh *verb* laughs, laughing, laughed

law *noun* laws

lawyer *noun* lawyers


lay *verb* lays, laying, laid

 Do not confuse *lay* with *lie*. *Lay* is a verb meaning ‘to put something somewhere carefully’, and must have an object: *Mothers often lay babies on their backs to sleep*. *Lie* is a verb meaning ‘to be in a horizontal position’: *I want to lie down*

lazy *adjective* lazier, laziest

lead *noun* leads

lead *verb* leads, leading, led

 Do not confuse the spellings of *lead* (the metal) and *led* (the past tense and past participle of the

verb lead): *The pipes are made of lead; I led her through to the garden*

leader *noun* leaders

leaf *noun* leaves

leaf *verb* leafs, leafing, leafed

league *noun* leagues

lean *adjective* leaner, leanest

lean *verb* leans, leaning, leant or leaned

learn *verb* learns, learning, learned or learnt


leather* *noun*

leave *verb* leaves, leaving, left

lecture *noun* lectures

lecture *verb* lectures, lecturing, lectured

led *verb*

 Do not confuse the spellings of *led* (the past tense and past participle of the verb *lead*), and *lead* (the metal): *I led her through to the garden; The pipes are made of lead*

left *noun*

left-click *noun* left-clicks

left-click *verb* left-clicks, left-clicking, left-clicked

leg *noun* legs

leisure* *noun*


lemon *noun* lemons

lemonade *noun* lemonades

lend *verb* lends, lending, lent

length *noun* lengths

lent *verb*

 Do not confuse the spellings of *lent* (the past tense and past participle of the verb *lend*) and *leant* (the past tense and past participle of the verb *lean*): *She lent me her bike; I leant against the wall*

lesson *noun* lessons

let *noun* lets

let *verb* lets, letting, let

let's



This is short for *let us*. Put the apostrophe between the *t* and the *s*

letter *noun* letters

lettuce *noun* lettuces

level *noun* levels

level *verb* levels, levelling, levelled

library *noun* libraries

licence *noun* licences



Do not confuse the spellings of the noun *licence* and the verb *license*: *a driving licence*; *Are you licensed to fly a plane?*



Spelling tip: *I want to see (C) your licenCe*

license *verb* licenses, licensing, licensed

lid *noun* lids

lie *verb* lies, lying, lay, lain

lie *verb* lies, lying, lied



Do not confuse *lie* with *lay*. There are two verbs written *lie*. When *lie* means 'to say something untruthful', the verb parts are *lies*, *lying* and *lied*. When *lie* means 'to be in a horizontal position', the verb parts are *lies*, *lying*, *lay* and *lain*

life *noun* lives

lift *noun* lifts

lift *verb* lifts, lifting, lifted

light *adjective* lighter, lightest

light *noun* lights

light *verb* lights, lighting, lighted, lit

lighter *noun* lighters

lightning *noun*

like *noun* likes

like *verb* likes, liking, liked

likely *adjective* likelier, likeliest

limit *noun* limits

limit *verb* limits, limiting, limited

line *noun* lines

line *verb* lines, lining, lined

link *noun* links

link *verb* links, linking, linked

lion *noun* lions

lip *noun* lips

liquid *noun* liquids

list *noun* lists

list *verb* lists, listing, listed

listen *verb* listens, listening, listened

lit *verb*

litre* *noun* litres

live *verb* lives, living, lived

lively *adjective* livelier, liveliest

loan *noun* loans

loan *verb* loans, loaning, loaned

local *noun* locals

locate *verb* locates, locating, located

location *noun* locations

lock *noun* locks

lock *verb* locks, locking, locked

logo *noun* logos

lonely *adjective* lonelier, loneliest

long *adjective* longer, longest

long *verb* longs, longing, longed

look *noun* looks

look *verb* looks, looking, looked

loose *adjective* looser, loosest

loose *verb* looses, losing, loosed



The adjective and verb *loose* is spelt with two os. Do not confuse it with the verb *lose*

lorry *noun* lorries

lose *verb* loses, losing, lost



Remember that the past tense of *lose* is *lost*

lot *noun* lots



Remember that *a lot* is written as two separate words

lottery *noun* lotteries

loud *adjective* louder, loudest

love *noun* loves

love *verb* loves, loving, loved

lovely *adjective* lovelier, loveliest

lover *noun* lovers

low *adjective* lower, lowest

low *noun* lows

lower *verb* lowers, lowering, lowered

luck *noun*

lucky *adjective* luckier, luckiest

lunch *noun* lunches

lunch *verb* lunches, lunching, lunched

luxury *noun* luxuries

Mm

machine *noun* machines

mad *adjective* madder, maddest

madam *noun* madams

magazine *noun* magazines

magic *noun*

magician *noun* magicians

mail *noun* mails

mail *verb* mails, mailing, mailed

main *adjective*

make *noun* makes

make *verb* makes, making, made

make-up *noun*

male *noun* males

mall *noun* malls

man *noun* men

man *verb* mans, manning, manned

manage *verb* manages, managing, managed

manager *noun* managers

manageress *noun* manageresses

mango *noun* mangoes or mangos

map *noun* maps

map *verb* maps, mapping, mapped

March *noun*

march *noun* marches

march *verb* marches, marching, marched

mark *noun* marks

mark *verb* marks, marking, marked

market *noun* markets

market *verb* markets, marketing, marketed

marriage *noun* marriages

married *adjective*

marry *verb* marries, marrying, married

marvellous *adjective*

match *noun* matches

match *verb* matches, matching, matched

mate *noun* mates

mate *verb* mates, mating, mated

material *noun* materials

matter *verb* matters, mattering, mattered

maximum *adjective*

May *noun*

may *verb*

maybe *adverb*

meal *noun* meals

mean *adjective* meaner, meanest

mean *noun* means

mean *verb* means, meaning, meant

meaning *noun* meanings

meat *noun* meats

mechanic* *noun* mechanics

medical *adjective*

medicine *noun* medicines

medium *noun* media or mediums

meet *verb* meets, meeting, met



Remember that the past tense of *meet* is *met*

meeting *noun* meetings

melon *noun* melons

member *noun* members

membership *noun* memberships

memory *noun* memories

mend *verb* mends, mending, mended

mention *noun* mentions

mention *verb* mentions, mentioning, mentioned

menu *noun* menus

mess *noun* messes

mess *verb* messes, messing, messed

message *noun* messages

message *verb* messages, messaging, messaged

messy *adjective* messier, messiest

metal *noun* metals

meter *noun* meters

method *noun* methods

metre *noun* metres



Do not confuse the spellings of *metre* and *meter*:

The wall is a metre high; the electricity meter

middle *noun* middles

mild *adjective* milder, mildest

mile *noun* miles

milk *verb* milks, milking, milked

millilitre *noun* millilitres

millimetre *noun* millimetres

million *noun* millions

millionth *noun* millionths

mind *noun* minds

mind *verb* minds, minding, minded

mine *noun* mines

mine *verb* mines, mining, mined

minimum *adjective*

minus *adjective*

minute *noun* minutes

minute *verb* minutes, minuting, minuted

mirror *noun* mirrors

mirror *verb* mirrors, mirroring, mirrored

mischief *noun*

mischievous* *adjective*

Miss *noun* Misses

miss *noun* misses

miss *verb* misses, missing, missed

mistake *noun* mistakes

mistake *verb* mistakes, mistaking, mistook, mistaken

mix *noun* mixes

mix *verb* mixes, mixing, mixed

mixture *noun* mixtures

mobile *noun* mobiles

model *noun* models

model *verb* models, modelling, modelled

modern *adjective*

moment *noun* moments

Monday *noun* Mondays

money *noun*

monkey *noun* monkeys

monster *noun* monsters

month *noun* months

monthly *adjective*

monument *noun* monuments

mood *noun* moods

moon *noun* moons

morning *noun* mornings



Do not confuse the spellings of *morning* and *mourning*: a sunny morning; a week of national

mourning

mosquito* *noun* mosquitoes or mosquitos

mother *noun* mothers

mother *verb* mothers, mothering, mothered

motorbike *noun* motorbikes

motorway *noun* motorways

mountain *noun* mountains

mourning *noun*

mouse *noun* mice

moustache *noun* moustaches

mouth *noun* mouths

mouth *verb* mouths, mouthing, mouthed

move *noun* moves

move *verb* moves, moving, moved

movie *noun* movies

Mr *noun*

Mrs *noun*

Ms *noun*

mug *noun* mugs

mug *verb* mugs, mugging, mugged

mum *noun* mums

mummy *noun* mummies

murder *noun* murders

murder *verb* murders, murdering, murdered

murderer *noun* murderers

muscle *noun* muscles

muscle *verb* muscles, muscling, muscled

museum *noun* museums

mushroom *noun* mushrooms

mushroom *verb* mushrooms, mushrooming, mushroomed

musical *noun* musicals

musician *noun* musicians

must *verb*

mysterious* *adjective*

mystery* *noun* mysteries

Nn

name *noun* names

name *verb* names, naming, named

narrow *adjective* narrower, narrowest

narrow *verb* narrows, narrowing, narrowed

nasty *adjective* nastier, nastiest

national *noun* nationals

nationality *noun* nationalities

natural *noun* naturals

nature *noun* natures

naughty *adjective* naughtier, naughtiest

near *adjective* nearer, nearest

near *verb* nears, nearing, neared

neat *adjective* neater, neatest

necessary *adjective*

necessity *noun* necessities

neck *noun* necks

necklace *noun* necklaces

need *noun* needs

need *verb* needs, needing, needed

negative *noun* negatives

neighbour* *noun* neighbours

neighbour* *verb* neighbours, neighbouring, neighboured

neighbourhood* *noun* neighbourhoods

nephew *noun* nephews

nervous *adjective*

net *noun* nets

new *adjective* newer, newest

newspaper *noun* newspapers

nice *adjective* nicer, nicest

niece *noun* nieces

night *noun* nights

nightlife *noun*

nightmare *noun* nightmares

nine *noun* nines

nineteen *noun* nineteens

nineteenth *noun* nineteenths

ninetieth *noun* ninetieths

ninety *noun* nineties

ninth *noun* ninths

no *interjection, determiner, adverb*

nobody *noun* nobodies

noise *noun* noises

noisy *adjective* noisier, noisiest

none *pronoun*



Do not confuse *none* with *nun*: *None of my friends are here yet; an order of Italian nuns*

noodle *noun* noodles

noon *noun* noons

north *noun*

nose *noun* noses

nose *verb* noses, nosing, nosed

not *adverb*

note *noun* notes

note *verb* notes, noting, noted

notebook *noun* notebooks

nothing *noun* nothings

notice *noun* notices

notice *verb* notices, noticing, noticed

noticeboard *noun* noticeboards

noun *noun* nouns

novel *noun* novels

November *noun*

now *adverb*



Do not confuse the spellings of *now* and *know*:
Lunch is ready now; I think I know that girl

nuisance* *noun* nuisances

number *noun* numbers

number *verb* numbers, numbering, numbered

nun *noun* nuns



Do not confuse *nun* with *none*: *an order of Italian nuns*; *None of my friends are here yet*

nurse *noun* nurses

nurse *verb* nurses, nursing, nursed

Oo

object *noun* objects

object *verb* objects, objecting, objected

occasion* *noun* occasions

occasionally* *adverb*

occupation *noun* occupations

occupy *verb* occupies, occupying, occupied

occur *verb* occurs, occurring, occurred

occurrence *noun* occurrences

ocean *noun* oceans

October *noun*

of *preposition*



Do not confuse the spellings of *of* and *off*: *a bunch of tulips*; *Do you want to take off your coat?*

off *preposition, adverb, adjective*

offer *noun* offers

offer *verb* offers, offering, offered

office *noun* offices

officer *noun* officers

often *adverb*

oil *noun* oils

oil *verb* oils, oiling, oiled

okay *noun* okays

okay *verb* okays, okaying, okayed

old *adjective* older, oldest

older *adjective*



Do not confuse *older* and *elder*. *Older* simply means 'more old'. It can be used of people or things, and can be followed by *than*: *My car is*


older than yours. Elder is used when you are saying which of two people was born first. It is not used with than: I live with my elder sister; He is the elder of the two.

old-fashioned *adjective*

olive *noun* olives

omelette* *noun* omelettes

one *noun* ones

 Do not confuse the spellings of *one* and *won*. *One* is a number. *Won* is the past tense of *win*

onion *noun* onions

open *adjective*

open *verb* opens, opening, opened

opera *noun* operas

operate *verb* operates, operating, operated

operation *noun* operations

opinion *noun* opinions

opportunity* *noun* opportunities

opposite *noun* opposites

option *noun* options

orange *noun* oranges


orchestra* *noun* orchestras

order *noun* orders


order *verb* orders, ordering, ordered

ordinary *adjective*

organization* *noun* organizations

 This noun can also be spelled with *isation*

organize *verb* organizes, organizing, organized


 This verb can also be spelt with *ise*

original *noun* originals

other *noun* others

ought *verb*

our *determiner*

 Do not confuse *our* and *are*, which some people pronounce the same way

out *adverb*

outside *noun* outsides

oven *noun* ovens

over *preposition, adverb*

overnight *adverb, adjective*

owe *verb* owes, owing, owed

own *verb* owns, owning, owned

owner *noun* owners

Pp

pack *noun* packs

pack *verb* packs, packing, packed


package *noun* packages, packaging, packaged

packet *noun* packets


page *noun* pages

page *verb* pages, paging, paged

pail *noun* pails

 Do not confuse the spellings of *pail* and *pale*. A *pail* is a bucket. *Pale* means very light in colour

pain *noun* pains

 Do not confuse the spellings of *pain* and *pane*. A *pain* is a feeling caused by disease or injury. A *pane* is a piece of glass in a window

pain *verb* pains, paining, pained

paint *noun* paints


paint *verb* paints, painting, painted

painter *noun* painters

painting *noun* paintings

pair *noun* pairs

pair *verb* pairs, pairing, paired

 Do not confuse the spellings of *pair* and *pear*. A *pair* is a set of two things. A *pear* is a fruit

palace *noun* palaces

pale *adjective* paler, palest

pan *noun* pans

pan *verb* pans, panning, panned

pane *noun* panes

paper *noun* papers

paper *verb* papers, papering, papered

paragraph* *noun* paragraphs

parcel *noun* parcels

parcel *verb* parcels, parcelling, parcelled

parent *noun* parents

park *noun* parks

park *verb* parks, parking, parked

parliament* *noun* parliaments

parrot *noun* parrots

part *noun* parts

part *verb* parts, parting, parted

particular *noun* particulars


partner *noun* partners

partner *verb* partners, partnering, partnered

party *noun* parties

pass *noun* passes

pass *verb* passes, passing, passed

 Do not confuse the spellings of *passed* and *past*:
We *passed* an accident on the way here; Go *past* the garage and turn left

passenger *noun* passengers

passive *adjective*

passport *noun* passports

password *noun* passwords

past *preposition, adverb*

pasta *noun* pastas

path *noun* paths

patient *noun* patients

pattern *noun* patterns

pause *noun* pauses


pause *verb* pauses, pausing, paused

pavement *noun* pavements

pay *verb* pays, paying, paid

pea *noun* peas

peace *noun*

 Do not confuse the spellings of *peace* and *piece*:
I love the peace and quiet here; a piece of cheese


peach *noun* peaches

peak *noun* peaks

peak *verb* peaks, peaking, peaked

peanut *noun* peanuts

pear *noun* pears

 Do not confuse the spellings of *pear* and *pair*. A *pear* is a fruit. A *pair* is a set of two things

peculiar *adjective*

pedestrian* *noun* pedestrians

pen *noun* pens

pen *verb* pens, penning, penned

pencil *noun* pencils

penguin *noun* penguins

penny *noun* pennies or pence

people *noun* peoples

people *verb* peoples, peopling, peopled

pepper *noun* peppers

perfect *noun* perfects

perfect *verb* perfects, perfecting, perfected

perform *verb* performs, performing, performed

performance* *noun* performances

perfume *noun* perfumes

perfume *verb* perfumes, perfuming, perfumed

perhaps *adverb*

period *noun* periods

permission* *noun* permissions

permit *noun* permits

permit *verb* permits, permitting, permitted

person *noun* people or persons

personal* *adjective*

persuade *verb* persuades, persuading, persuaded

pet *noun* pets

pet *verb* pets, petting, petted

pharmacy* *noun* pharmacies

phone *noun* phones

phone *verb* phones, phoning, phoned

photo *noun* photos

photocopy *noun* photocopies

photocopy *verb* photocopies, photocopying, photocopied

photograph* *noun* photographs

photograph* *verb* photographs, photographing, photographed

photographer* *noun* photographers

phrase *noun* phrases

phrase *verb* phrases, phrasing, phrased

physical* *adjective*

piano *noun* pianos

pick *noun* picks

pick *verb* picks, picking, picked

picnic *noun* picnics

picnic *verb* picnics, picnicking, picnicked

picture *noun* pictures

picture *verb* pictures, picturing, pictured

pie *noun* pies

piece *noun* pieces

piece *verb* pieces, piecing, pieced



Spelling tip: *have a pIEce of pIE*



Do not confuse the spellings of *piece* and *peace*:
a piece of cheese; I love the peace and quiet here

pig *noun* pigs

pile *noun* piles

pile *verb* piles, piling, piled

pill *noun* pills

pillow *noun* pillows

pilot *noun* pilots

pilot *verb* pilots, piloting, piloted

pin *noun* pins

pin *verb* pins, pinning, pinned

pineapple* *noun* pineapples

pink *noun* pinks

pink *adjective* pinker, pinkest

pipe *noun* pipes

pipe *verb* pipes, piping, piped

pirate *noun* pirates

pity *verb* pities, pitying, pitied


pizza *noun* pizzas

place *noun* places

place *verb* places, placing, placed

plain *adjective* plainer, plainest

plain *noun* plains

 Do not confuse the spellings of *plain* and *plane*:
lions who live on the African plains; If you don't hurry up you will miss your plane

plan *noun* plans

plan *verb* plans, planning, planned

plane *noun* planes

plane *verb* planes, planing, planed

planet *noun* planets

plant *noun* plants

plant *verb* plants, planting, planted

plastic *noun* plastics

plate *noun* plates

platform *noun* platforms

play *noun* plays

play *verb* plays, playing, played

player *noun* players

playground *noun* playgrounds

please *verb* pleases, pleasing, pleased

pleasure *noun* pleasures

plenty *noun*

plug *noun* plugs

plug *verb* plugs, plugging, plugged

plural *noun* plurals

plus *adjective*

pocket *noun* pockets

pocket *verb* pockets, pocketing, pocketed

poem *noun* poems

poet *noun* poets

point *noun* points

point *verb* points, pointing, pointed

police *verb* polices, policing, policed

policeman *noun* policemen

policewoman *noun* policewomen

politician* *noun* politicians

pollution *noun*

pool *noun* pools

pool *verb* pools, pooling, pooled

poor *adjective* poorer, poorest

pop *noun* pops

pop *verb* pops, popping, popped

popular* *adjective*

population *noun* populations

pore *noun* pores

pore *verb* pores, poring, pored

port *noun* ports

position *noun* positions

position *verb* positions, positioning, positioned

positive *noun* positives

possession *noun* possessions

possessive* *noun* possessives

possibility* *noun* possibilities

possible *adjective*

post *noun* posts

post *verb* posts, posting, posted

poster *noun* posters

postman *noun* postmen

postpone* *verb* postpones, postponing, postponed

pot *noun* pots

pot *verb* pots, potting, potted

potato *noun* potatoes

pound *noun* pounds

pound *verb* pounds, pounding, pounded

pour *verb* pours, pouring, poured



Do not confuse the spellings of *pour* and *pore*:
The rain was pouring down the window; Aila was poring over a book

powder *noun* powders

powder *verb* powders, powdering, powdered

power *noun* powers

power *verb* powers, powering, powered

practice *noun* practices



Do not confuse the spellings of the noun *practice* and the verb *practise*: *You won't get better without practice; I practise the piano every day*



Spelling tip: *I went to see (C) the doctor's new practiCe*

practise *verb* practises, practising, practised



Spelling tip: *you must practiSe your Spelling*

pray *verb* prays, praying, prayed



Do not confuse the spellings of *pray* and *prey*:
Muslims pray five times a day; Owls prey on mice and small birds

prayer *noun* prayers

predict *verb* predicts, predicting, predicted

prefer *verb* prefers, preferring, preferred

prejudice* *noun* prejudices

preparation *noun* preparations

prepare *verb* prepare, preparing, prepared

preposition* *noun* prepositions

present *noun* presents

present *verb* presents, presenting, presented

presentation *noun* presentations

president *noun* presidents

press *verb* presses, pressing, pressed

pressure *noun* pressures


pretty *adjective* prettier, prettiest

prevent *verb* prevents, preventing, prevented

prey *verb* preys, preying, preyed

price *noun* prices

price *verb* prices, pricing, priced

 Do not confuse *price* with *prize*. The *price* of something is the amount of money you pay to buy it: *The price of a cup of coffee is £2.* A *prize* is something given to someone for winning a competition: *He won first prize in a music competition*


priest *noun* priests


primary *noun* primaries

prince *noun* princes

princess *noun* princesses

principal *noun* principals

 Do not confuse the spellings of *principal* and *principle*: *the principal reason; the school principal; Eating meat is against my principles*

 Spelling tip: *pAL* up with the *principAL* and *principAL* teachers

principle *noun* principles

print *noun* prints


print *verb* prints, printing, printed

printer *noun* printers

printing *noun* printings

printout *noun* printouts

prise *verb* prises, prising, prised

 Do not confuse the spellings of *prise* and *prize*: A *prisoner* had *prised* the wire fence apart; *Analytical* skills are highly *prized* in business

prison *noun* prisons

prisoner *noun* prisoners

private *noun* privates

privilege* *noun* privileges

prize *verb* prizes, prizing, prized

probably *adverb*

problem *noun* problems

produce *verb* produces, producing, produced

product *noun* products


profession* *noun* professions

professional* *noun* professionals

professor* *noun* professors

program *noun* programs

program *verb* programs, programming, programmed

 Do not confuse *program* with *programme*. You *program* a computer but you watch a television *programme*.

programme *noun* programmes

progress *verb* progresses, progressing, progressed

project *noun* projects

project *verb* projects, projecting, projected


promise *noun* promises

promise *verb* promises, promising, promised

promote *verb* promotes, promoting, promoted

pronoun *noun* pronouns

pronounce *verb* pronounces, pronouncing, pronounced

 There is an *o* before the *u* in *pronounce*

pronunciation* *noun* pronunciations



There is no *o* before the *u* in *pronunciation*

property *noun* properties

protect *verb* protects, protecting, protected

proud *adjective* prouder, proudest

prove *verb* proves, proving, proved or proven

provide *verb* provides, providing, provided

provider *noun* providers

pub *noun* pubs

publish *verb* publishes, publishing, published

pull *noun* pulls

pull *verb* pulls, pulling, pulled

pullover *noun* pullovers

pump *noun* pumps

pump *verb* pumps, pumping, pumped

pumpkin *noun* pumpkins

punctuation* *noun* punctuations

punish *verb* punishes, punishing, punished

pup *noun* pups

pupil *noun* pupils

puppy *noun* puppies

pure *adjective* purer, purest

purple *adjective*

purpose *noun* purposes

purse *noun* purses

purse *verb* purses, pursing, pursed

push *noun* pushes

push *verb* pushes, pushing, pushed

put *verb* puts, putting, put



Remember that the past tense of *put* is *put*

puzzle *noun* puzzles

puzzle *verb* puzzles, puzzling, puzzled

Qq

qualification* *noun* qualifications

quality *noun* qualities

quantity *noun* quantities

quarter *noun* quarters

quarter *verb* quarters, quartering, quartered

queen *noun* queens


question *noun* questions

question *verb* questions, questioning, questioned

questionnaire* *noun* questionnaires

queue *noun* queues


queue *verb* queues, queueing, queuing or queued

 Do not confuse the spellings of *queue* and *cue*: *a long queue at the bank; That's the lead singer's cue*

quick *adjective* quicker, quickest

quiet *adjective* quieter, quietest

quiet *verb* quiets, quieting, quieted

 Do not confuse the spellings of *quiet* and the adverb *quite*

quilt *noun* quilts

quilt *verb* quilts, quilting, quilted

quit *verb* quits, quitting, quit

quite *adverb*

quiz *noun* quizzes

quiz *verb* quizzes, quizzing, quizzed

Rr

rabbit *noun* rabbits

race *noun* races

race *verb* races, racing, raced

racket *noun* rackets

radio *noun* radios

radio *verb* radios, radioing, radioed

rail *noun* rails

railway *noun* railways

rain *noun* rains

rain *verb* rains, raining, rained



Do not confuse the spellings of *rain*, *rein* and *reign*: *The rain has finally stopped; Pull the reins sharply if you want to turn; the reign of King John*

raincoat *noun* raincoats

raindrop *noun* raindrops

rainforest *noun* rainforests

rainstorm *noun* rainstorms

rainy *adjective* rainier, rainiest

raise *verb* raises, raising, raised



Do not confuse *raise* with *rise*. *Raise* is a verb that takes an object: *He raised his cup to his lips*. *Rise* is a verb that does not take an object: *Columns of smoke rose into the sky*

range *noun* ranges

range *verb* ranges, ranging, ranged

rap *noun* raps

rap *verb* raps, rapping, rapped



Do not confuse the spellings of *rap* and *wrap*: *The teacher rapped the table with a ruler; I have wrapped all my Christmas presents*

rare *adjective* rarer, rarest

raspberry* *noun* raspberries

rat *noun* rats

reach *verb* reaches, reaching, reached

read *verb* reads, reading, read



Remember that the past tense of *read* has the same spelling but rhymes with *bed*

reader *noun* readers

reading *noun* readings

ready *adjective* readier, readiest

real *adjective*

realize *verb* realizes, realizing, realized



This verb can also be spelt with *ise*

really *adverb*

reason *noun* reasons

reason *verb* reasons, reasoning, reasoned

rebuild *verb* rebuilds, rebuilding, rebuilt

receipt *noun* receipts

receive *verb* receives, receiving, received

recent *adjective*

reception *noun* receptions

receptionist *noun* receptionists

recipe *noun* recipes

recognize *verb* recognizes, recognizing, recognized



This verb can also be spelt with *ise*

recommend *verb* recommends, recommending, recommended

record *noun* records

record *verb* records, recording, recorded

recording *noun* recordings

recover *verb* recovers, recovering, recovered

recycle *verb* recycles, recycling, recycled

recycling *noun*

red *adjective* redder, reddest

red *noun* reds

reduce *verb* reduces, reducing, reduced

refreshment *noun* refreshments

refund *noun* refunds

refund *verb* refunds, refunding, refunded

refuse *verb* refuses, refusing, refused

regard *verb* regards, regarding, regarded

region *noun* regions

register *noun* registers

register *verb* registers, registering, registered

registration *noun* registrations

regret *noun* regrets

regret *verb* regrets, regretting, regretted

regular *noun* regulars

reign* *noun* reigns

reign* *verb* reigns, reigning, reigned

relation *noun* relations

relationship* *noun* relationships

relative *noun* relatives

relax *verb* relaxes, relaxing, relaxed

relevant *adjective*

religion *noun* religions

religious *adjective*

remember *verb* remembers, remembering, remembered

remind *verb* reminds, reminding, reminded

remove *verb* removes, removing, removed

rent *noun* rents

rent *verb* rents, renting, rented

repair *noun* repairs

repair *verb* repairs, repairing, repaired

repeat *noun* repeats

repeat *verb* repeats, repeating, repeated

replace *verb* replaces, replacing, replaced

reply *noun* replies

reply *verb* replies, replying, replied

report *noun* reports

report *verb* reports, reporting, reported

reporter *noun* reporters

request *noun* requests

request *verb* requests, requesting, requested

require *verb* requires, requiring, required

rescue *noun* rescues

rescue *verb* rescues, rescuing, rescued

research *verb* researches, researching, researched

resell *verb* resells, reselling, resold

reservation* *noun* reservations

reserve *noun* reserves

reserve *verb* reserves, reserving, reserved

resort *noun* resorts

resort *verb* resorts, resorting, resorted

respect *noun* respects

respect *verb* respects, respecting, respected

rest *noun* rests

rest *verb* rests, resting, rested

restaurant* *noun* restaurants

result *noun* results

result *verb* results, resulting, resulted

retire *verb* retires, retiring, retired

return *noun* returns

return *verb* returns, returning, returned

review* *noun* reviews

review* *verb* reviews, reviewing, reviewed

revise *verb* revises, revising, revised

revision *noun* revisions

reward *noun* rewards

reward *verb* rewards, rewarding, rewarded

rhyme* *noun* rhymes

rhythm* *noun* rhythms


rice *noun*

rich *adjective* richer, richest

riches *plural noun*

ride *noun* rides


ride *verb* rides, riding, rode, ridden

 Remember that the past tense of *ride* is *rode* and the past participle is *ridden*

rider *noun* riders

right *noun* rights

right *verb* rights, righting, righted

 Do not confuse the spellings of *right*, *write* and *rite*: *Is that the right answer?*; *Write your name on the jotter*; *the marriage rites of the Christian Church*

right-click *noun* right-clicks

right-click *verb* right-clicks, right-clicking, right-clicked

ring *noun* rings

ring *verb* rings, ringing, rang, rung

ring *verb* rings, ringing, ringed



When *ring* means ‘to make a sound like a bell’, the past tense is *rang* and the past participle is *rung*. When *ring* means ‘to surround’, the past tense and past participle is *ringed*

rise *verb* rises, rising, rose, risen



Do not confuse *rise* and *arise*. When someone or something *rises*, they move upward: *He rose to greet her*. *Rise* also means to increase: *prices have risen*. When an opportunity or problem *arises*, it begins to exist: *A difficulty has arisen*

Do not confuse *rise* with *raise*. *Rise* is a verb that does not take an object: *Columns of smoke rose into the sky*. *Raise* is a verb that takes an object: *He raised the cup to his lips*

rite *noun* rites

river *noun* rivers

road *noun* roads

roast *noun* roasts

roast *verb* roasts, roasting, roasted

rob *verb* robs, robbing, robbed

robot *noun* robots

rock *noun* rocks

rock *verb* rocks, rocking, rocked

rode *verb*

role *noun* roles



Do not confuse the spellings of *role* and *roll*: *He has won a leading role in a musical*; *We need another roll of wallpaper*

roll *noun* rolls

roll *verb* rolls, rolling, rolled

romance *noun* romances


romantic *noun* romantics

roof *noun* roofs

roof *verb* roofs, roofing, roofed

room *noun* rooms

root *noun* roots

 Do not confuse the spellings of *root* and *route*. A *root* is the part of a plant that grows beneath the soil. The *route* is the way you get to a place

root *verb* roots, rooting, rooted

rose *noun* roses

rough *adjective* rougher, roughest

rough *noun* roughs

round *adjective* rounder, roundest

round *noun* rounds

round *verb* rounds, rounding, rounded


roundabout *noun* roundabouts

route *noun* routes

routine *noun* routines

row *noun* rows

row *verb* rows, rowing, rowed

 Do not confuse the different ways of pronouncing *row*. A *row* is an argument and rhymes with *cow*. A *row* is a line of things and rhymes with *go*. To *row* means to make a boat move by using oars and rhymes with *go*.

rubber *noun* rubbers

rubbish *verb* rubbishes, rubbishing, rubbished

rude *adjective* ruder, rudest

rug *noun* rugs

ruin *noun* ruins

ruin *verb* ruins, ruining, ruined

rule *noun* rules

rule *verb* rules, ruling, ruled

ruler *noun* rulers

run *noun* runs

run *verb* runs, running, ran, run

rung *noun* rungs

runner *noun* runners

Russian *noun* Russians

Ss

sacrifice* *noun* sacrifices

sacrifice* *verb* sacrifices, sacrificing, sacrificed


sad *adjective* sadder, saddest

safe *adjective* safer, safest

safe *noun* safes

sail *noun* sails

sail *verb* sails, sailing, sailed

 Do not confuse *sail* (a large sheet that catches the wind to make a boat go) and *sale* (the selling of goods for money)

sailing *noun* sailings

sailor *noun* sailors

salad *noun* salads

salary *noun* salaries

sale *noun* sales

salesman *noun* salesmen

saleswoman *noun* saleswomen

salmon *noun* salmons or salmon

salon *noun* salons

salt *noun* salts

salt *verb* salts, salting, salted


sand *noun* sands

sand *verb* sands, sanding, sanded

sandal *noun* sandals

sandwich *noun* sandwiches


sandwich *verb* sandwiches, sandwiching, sandwiched

 Spelling tip: there's SAND in my SANDwich

sandy *adjective* sandier, sandiest

Saturday *noun* Saturdays

sauce *noun* sauces

 Do not confuse the spellings of *sauce* and *source*, which can sound very similar in some accents

saucepan *noun* saucepans

saucer *noun* saucers

sausage *noun* sausages

save *noun* saves


save *verb* saves, saving, saved

savoury* *adjective*

saw *noun* saws

saw *verb* saws, sawing, sawed, sawn

say *verb* says, saying, said

 Remember that the past tense of *say* is spelt *said* and pronounced 'sed'

scarf *noun* scarfs or scarves

scary *adjective* scarier, scariest

scene *noun* scenes

scenery *noun*

scent *noun* scents

schedule* *noun* schedules

schedule* *verb* schedules, scheduling, scheduled

school *noun* schools

school *verb* schools, schooling, schooled

schoolboy *noun* schoolboys

schoolchild *noun* schoolchildren

schoolgirl *noun* schoolgirls

schoolmate *noun* schoolmates

schoolroom *noun* schoolrooms

schoolteacher *noun* schoolteachers

science *noun* sciences

scientist *noun* scientists

scooter *noun* scooters

score *noun* scores

score *verb* scores, scoring, scored

scorer *noun* scorers

scream *noun* screams


scream *verb* screams, screaming, screamed

screen *noun* screens

screen *verb* screens, screening, screened

sculpture *noun* sculptures

sea *noun* seas

 Do not confuse *sea* with *see*. The *sea* is a large area of salt water. If you *see* something, you look at it

search *noun* searches

search *verb* searches, searching, searched

season *noun* seasons

season *verb* seasons, seasoning, seasoned

seat *noun* seats

seat *verb* seats, seating, seated

second *noun* seconds

second *verb* seconds, seconding, seconded

secondary *noun* secondaries


secret *noun* secrets

secretary* *noun* secretaries

section *noun* sections

security* *noun* securities


see *verb* sees, seeing, saw, seen

 Remember that the past tense of *see* is *saw*

seem *verb* seems, seeming, seemed


select *verb* selects, selecting, selected

sell *verb* sells, selling, sold

 Remember that the past tense of *sell* is *sold*

seller *noun* sellers

send *verb* sends, sending, sent

 Do not confuse the spellings of *sent* (the past tense and past participle of *send*) and *scent* (a nice smell): *I sent Anna a birthday card; the scent of lilies*

sense *noun* senses

sense *verb* senses, sensing, sensed

sensible *adjective*

sentence *noun* sentences


sentence *verb* sentences, sentencing, sentenced

separate* *verb* separates, separating, separated

September *noun*

series *noun* series

serial *noun* serials

 Do not confuse the spellings of *serial* and *cereal*:
a new drama serial; my favourite breakfast cereal

serve *verb* serves, serving, served

server *noun* servers

service *noun* services

service *verb* services, servicing, serviced

session *noun* sessions

set *noun* sets

set *verb* sets, setting, set

seven *noun* sevens

seventeen *noun* seventeens


seventeenth *noun* seventeenth

seventh *noun* sevenths

seventieth *noun* seventieths

seventy *noun* seventies

sew *verb* sews, sewing, sewed, sewn

 Do not confuse sew with sow. To sew is to work
with a thread and needle. To sow is to put seed
into the ground

sex *noun* sexes

shade *noun* shades

shade *verb* shades, shading, shaded

shadow *noun* shadows

shadow *verb* shadows, shadowing, shadowed

shake *verb* shakes, shaking, shook, shaken

shame *noun* shames

shame *verb* shames, shaming, shamed

shampoo *noun* shampoos

shampoo *verb* shampoos, shampooing, shampooed

shape *noun* shapes

shape *verb* shapes, shaping, shaped

share *noun* shares

share *verb* shares, sharing, shared

shark *noun* sharks

sharp *adjective* sharper, sharpest

sharp *noun* sharps

shave *verb* shaves, shaving, shaved

shaven *adjective*

she'd



This is short for *she would* or *she had*. Put the apostrophe between the *e* and the *d*

sheep *noun* sheep

sheet *noun* sheets

shelf *noun* shelves

she'll



This is short for *she will*. Put the apostrophe between the *e* and the first *l*

she's



This is short for *she is* or *she has*. Put the apostrophe between the *e* and the *s*

shine *verb* shines, shining, shone

shiny *adjective* shinier, shiniest

ship *noun* ships

ship *verb* ships, shipping, shipped

shirt *noun* shirts

shock *noun* shocks

shock *verb* shocks, shocking, shocked

shoe *noun* shoes

shook *verb*

shoot *noun* shoots

shoot *verb* shoots, shooting, shot

shop *noun* shops

shop *verb* shops, shopping, shopped

shore *noun* shores

shore *verb* shores, shoring, shored

short *adjective* shorter, shortest

shot *noun* shots

should *verb*

shoulder *noun* shoulders

shoulder *verb* shoulders, shouldering, shouldered

shouldn't



This is short for *should not*. Put the apostrophe between the *n* and the *t*

shout *noun* shouts

shout *verb* shouts, shouting, shouted

show *noun* shows

show *verb* shows, showing, showed, shown

shower *noun* showers

shower *verb* showers, showering, showered

shut *verb* shuts, shutting, shut

shy *adjective* shyer or shier, shyest or shiest

shy *noun* shies

shy *verb* shies, shying, shied

sick *adjective* sicker, sickest

side *noun* sides

side *verb* sides, siding, sided

sight *noun* sights

sight *verb* sights, sighting, sighted



Do not confuse the spellings of *sight* and *site*:
The bombed city was a terrible sight; the site of a battle in World War One

sign *noun* signs

sign *verb* signs, signing, signed

signature* *noun* signatures

silence *noun* silences

silence *verb* silences, silencing, silenced

silent *adjective*

silk *noun* silks

silly *adjective* sillier, silliest

silver *noun*

simple *adjective* simpler, simplest

sincere *adjective*

sincerely *adverb*

sing *verb* sings, singing, sang, sung



Remember that the past tense of *sing* is *sang*

singer *noun* singers

single *noun* singles

single *verb* singles, singling, singled

singular* *noun* singulars

sink *verb* sinks, sinking, sank, sunk

sir *noun* sirs

sister *noun* sisters

sit *verb* sits, sitting, sat

site *noun* sites

site *verb* sites, siting, sited

situation* *noun* situations

six *noun* sixes

sixteen *noun* sixteens

sixteenth *noun* sixteenths

sixth *noun* sixths

sixtieth *noun* sixtieths

sixty *noun* sixties

size *noun* sizes

size *verb* sizes, sizing, sized

skate *noun* skates

skate *verb* skates, skating, skated

skateboard *noun* skateboards

skateboard *verb* skateboards, skateboarding, skateboarded

skateboarder *noun* skateboarders

ski *noun* skis

ski *verb* skis, skiing, skied

skill *noun* skills

skin *noun* skins

skin *verb* skins, skinning, skinned

skirt *noun* skirts

skirt *verb* skirts, skirting, skirted

sky *noun* skies

sleep *noun* sleeps

sleep *verb* sleeps, sleeping, slept

sleepy *adjective* sleepier, sleepiest

sleeve *noun* sleeves

slice *noun* slices

slice *verb* slices, slicing, sliced

slim *adjective* slimmer, slimmest

slip *noun* slips

slip *verb* slips, slipping, slipped

slow *adjective* slower, slowest

slow *verb* slows, slowing, slowed

small *adjective* smaller, smallest

smart *adjective* smarter, smartest

smart *verb* smarts, smarting, smarted

smell *noun* smells

smell *verb* smells, smelling, smelt or smelled

smile *noun* smiles

smile *verb* smiles, smiling, smiled

smoke *noun* smokes

smoke *verb* smokes, smoking, smoked

smooth *adjective* smoother, smoothest

smooth *verb* smooths, smoothing, smoothed

SMS *noun* SMSs

snack *noun* snacks

snack *verb* snacks, snacking, snacked

snake *noun* snakes

snow *noun* snows

snow *verb* snows, snowing, snowed

snowboard *noun* snowboards

snowstorm *noun* snowstorms

soap *noun* soaps

soap *verb* soaps, soaping, soaped

social *adjective*

society* *noun* societies

sock *noun* socks

sofa *noun* sofas

soft *adjective* softer, softest

soldier *noun* soldiers

soldier *verb* soldiers, soldiering, soldiered

solution *noun* solutions

solve *verb* solves, solving, solved

somebody *noun* somebodies

son *noun* sons

song *noun* songs

soon *adjective* sooner, soonest

sore *noun* sores

sore *adjective* sorer, sorest

sorry *adjective* sorrier, sorriest

sort *noun* sorts

sort *verb* sorts, sorting, sorted

soul *noun* souls

sound *adjective* sounder, soundest

sound *noun* sounds

sound *verb* sounds, sounding, sounded

soup *noun* soups

sour *adjective* sourer, sourest

sour *verb* sours, souring, soured

south *noun*

sow *verb* sows, sowing, sowed



Do not confuse sow with sew. To sow is to put seed into the ground. To sew is to work with a thread and needle

souvenir* *noun* souvenirs

space *noun* spaces

space *verb* spaces, spacing, spaced

spare *noun* spares

spare *verb* spares, sparing, spared

speak *verb* speaks, speaking, spoke, spoken

speaker *noun* speakers

special *adjective*

spectacular* *noun* spectaculars

speech *noun* speeches

speed *noun* speeds

speed *verb* speeds, speeding, sped or speeded

spell *noun* spells

spell *verb* spells, spelling, spelt or spelled

spelling *noun* spellings

spend *verb* spends, spending, spent

spice *noun* spices

spice *verb* spices, spicing, spiced

spicy *adjective* spicier, spiciest

spider *noun* spiders

spill *noun* spills

spill *verb* spills, spilling, spilt or spilled

spoil *verb* spoils, spoiling, spoilt or spoiled

spoke *noun* spokes

spoon *noun* spoons

spoon *verb* spoons, spooning, spooned

sport *noun* sports

spot *noun* spots

spot *verb* spots, spotting, spotted

spring *verb* springs, springing, sprang, sprung

spy *noun* spies

spy *verb* spies, spying, spied

square *noun* squares

square *verb* squares, squaring, squared

squash *noun* squashes

squash *verb* squashes, squashing, squashed


stadium *noun* stadiums

staff *verb* staffs, staffing, staffed


stage *noun* stages

stage *verb* stages, staging, staged

stair *noun* stairs

 Do not confuse *stair* with *stare*. A *stair* is one of a set of steps. If you *stare* at something you look at it

stake *noun* stakes

 Do not confuse *stake* with *steak*. A *stake* is a pointed wooded post. A *steak* is a thick slice of meat

stake *verb* stakes, staking, staked

stall *noun* stalls

stall *verb* stalls, stalling, stalled

stamp *noun* stamps

stamp *verb* stamps, stamping, stamped

stand *noun* stands

stand *verb* stands, standing, stood

star *noun* stars

star *verb* stars, starring, starred

stare *noun* stares

stare *verb* stares, staring, stared

start *noun* starts


start *verb* starts, starting, started

station *noun* stations


station *verb* stations, stationing, stationed

stationary* *adjective*

stationery* *noun*

 Do not confuse the spellings of *stationery* and *stationary*. *Stationery* is envelopes and paper. *Stationary* means not moving

statue *noun* statues


 Do not confuse the spellings of *statue* and *statute*: *a marble statue of the Roman goddess Venus; an anti-terrorism statute passed by the Russian parliament*

statute *noun* statutes


stay *noun* stays


stay *verb* stays, staying, stayed

steak *noun* steaks

 Do not confuse *steak* with *stake*. A *steak* is a thick slice of meat. A *stake* is a pointed wooded post.

steal *verb* steals, stealing, stole, stolen

 Do not confuse the spellings of *steal* and *steel*: *He is accused of stealing a car; The government is steeling itself to take action*

 Remember that the past tense of *steal* is *stole*

steel *verb* steels, steeling, steeled

steep *adjective* steeper, steepest

steep *verb* steepes, steeping, steeped

step *noun* steps

step *verb* steps, stepping, stepped

stick *noun* sticks

stick *verb* sticks, sticking, stuck

sticky *adjective* stickier, stickiest

still *adjective* stiller, stillest

still *noun* stills

stir *noun* stirs

stir *verb* stirs, stirring, stirred

stole *noun* stoles

stomach* *noun* stomachs

stomach* *verb* stomachs, stomaching, stomached

stone *noun* stones

stone *verb* stones, stoning, stoned


stop *noun* stops

stop *verb* stops, stopping, stopped

store *noun* stores

store *verb* stores, storing, stored

storey *noun* storeys

 Do not confuse *storey* with *story*. A *storey* is a level of a building: *My office is on the third storey.* A *story* is something you read in a book: *a book of adventure stories*


storm *noun* storms

storm *verb* storms, storming, stormed

straight *adjective* straighter, straightest

story *noun* stories

straight *adjective* straighter, straightest

 Do not confuse the spellings of *straight* and *strait*: *a straight line; the Strait of Messina*

strait *noun* straits

strange *adjective* stranger, strangest

stranger *noun* strangers

strawberry *noun* strawberries

stream *noun* streams

stream *verb* streams, streaming, streamed

street *noun* streets

streetlamp *noun* streetlamps

strength *noun* strengths

stress *noun* stresses

stress *verb* stresses, stressing, stressed

strict *adjective* stricter, strictest

strike *noun* strikes

strike *verb* strikes, striking, struck

strip *noun* strips

strip *verb* strips, stripping, stripped

stripe *noun* stripes

strong *adjective* stronger, strongest

student *noun* students

studio *noun* studios

study *noun* studies

study *verb* studies, studying, studied

stuff *verb* stuffs, stuffing, stuffed

stupid *adjective* stupider, stupidest

style *noun* styles

style *verb* styles, styling, styled

subject *noun* subjects

subject *verb* subjects, subjecting, subjected

subtract *verb* subtracts, subtracting, subtracted

subtraction* *noun* subtractions

succeed *verb* succeeds, succeeding, succeeded

success *noun* successes

suffer *verb* suffers, suffering, suffered

sufficient *adjective*

sugar *noun* sugars

suggest *verb* suggests, suggesting, suggested

suggestion* *noun* suggestions

suit *noun* suits

suit *verb* suits, suiting, suited

suitcase *noun* suitcases

summer *noun* summers

sun *verb* suns, sunning, sunned

sunbathe *verb* sunbathes, sunbathing, sunbathed

Sunday *noun* Sundays

sunk *verb*

sunny *adjective* sunnier, sunniest

sunrise *noun* sunrises

sunset *noun* sunsets

sunshine *noun*

superlative* *noun* superlatives

supermarket *noun* supermarkets



supper *noun* suppers

support *noun* supports

support *verb* supports, supporting, supported

supporter *noun* supporters

suppose *verb* supposing, supposed

 Do not confuse *suppose* with *supposed to*.
 *Suppose* is a verb. If you *suppose* that something is true, you think it is probably true: *I suppose it was difficult*. If something is *supposed to* be done, it should be done because of a rule or instruction: *I'm not supposed to talk to you about this*. If something is *supposed to* be true, most people think it is true: *It's supposed to be a good movie*

sure *adjective* surer, surest

surf *noun* surfs

surf *verb* surfs, surfing, surfed

surfer *noun* surfers

surname *noun* surnames

surprise *noun* surprises

surprise *verb* surprises, surprising, surprised

surround *noun* surrounds


surround *verb* surrounds, surrounding, surrounded

sweater *noun* sweaters

sweet *adjective* sweeter, sweetest

sweet *noun* sweets

swim *verb* swims, swimming, swam, swum

 Remember that the past tense of *swim* is *swam* and the past participle is *swum*

swimmer *noun* swimmers

swimsuit *noun* swimsuits

switch *noun* switches

switch *verb* switches, switching, switched

symbol* *noun* symbols

system *noun* systems

Tt

table *noun* tables

tablet *noun* tablets

tail *noun* tails

tail *verb* tails, tailing, tailed



Do not confuse *tail* with *tale*. A *tail* is a part at the back of some animals. A *tale* is a story

take *noun* takes

take *verb* takes, taking, took, taken

takeaway *noun* takeaways

takeoff *noun* takeoffs

tale *noun* tales

talent *noun* talents

talk *noun* talks

talk *verb* talks, talking, talked

tall *adjective* taller, tallest

tap *noun* taps

tap *verb* taps, tapping, tapped

tart *noun* tarts

taste *noun* tastes

taste *verb* tastes, tasting, tasted

tasty *adjective* tastier, tastiest

tax *noun* taxes

tax *verb* taxes, taxing, taxed

taxi *noun* taxis

taxi *verb* taxis, taxiing, taxied

tea *noun* teas

teach *verb* teaches, teaching, taught

teacher *noun* teachers

teaching *noun* teachings

teacup *noun* teacups

team *noun* teams

team *verb* teams, teaming, teamed



Do not confuse *team* with *teem*. A *team* is a group of people playing together in a sport. *Teem* means to pour down

tear *noun* tears

tear *verb* tears, tearing, tore, torn



Remember that the past tense of *tear* is *tore* and the past participle is *torn*

teem *verb* teems, teeming, teemed

technique* *noun* techniques

technology *noun* technologies

teenager *noun* teenagers

telephone *noun* telephones

telephone *verb* telephones, telephoning, telephoned

television* *noun* televisions

tell *noun* tells

tell *verb* tells, telling, told



Remember that the past tense of *tell* is *told*

temperature* *noun* temperatures

temporary* *adjective*

ten *noun* tens

tense *adjective* tenser, tensest

tense *noun* tenses

tense *verb* tenses, tensing, tensed

tent *noun* tents

tenth *noun* tenths

term *noun* terms

term *verb* terms, terming, termed

test *noun* tests

test *verb* tests, testing, tested

text *noun* texts

text *verb* texts, texting, texted

thank *verb* thanks, thanking, thanked

that *determiner*

theatre *noun* theatres

their *determiner*



Do not confuse the spellings of *their*, *there* and *they're*: *Their house is the blue one; That's my car over there; They're always late*

there *adverb*



A good way to remember that *there* is connected to the idea of place is by remembering the

spelling of two other place words: *here* and *where*

therefore *adverb*

they'd



This is short for *they would* or *they had*. Put the apostrophe between the *y* and the *d*

they'll



This is short for *they will*. Put the apostrophe between the *y* and the first *l*

they're



This is short for *they are*. Put the apostrophe between the *y* and the *r*

they've



This is short for *they have*. Put the apostrophe between the *y* and the *v*

thick *adjective* thicker, thickest

thief *noun* thieves

thin *adjective* thinner, thinnest

thin *verb* thins, thinning, thinned

thing *noun* things

think *verb* thinks, thinking, thought



Remember that the past tense is *thought*

third *noun* thirds

thirsty *adjective* thirstier, thirstiest

thirteen *noun* thirteens

thirteenth *noun* thirteenths

thirtieth *noun* thirtieths

thirty *noun* thirties

thorough *adjective*

though *conjunction*

thought *noun* thoughts

thousand *noun* thousands


thousandth *noun* thousandths

three *noun* threes

thriller *noun* thrillers

throat *noun* throats

through *preposition*

 Do not confuse the spellings of *through* and *threw* (the past tense of *throw*): *The river runs through the centre of town; Aidan threw the ball over the fence*

throw *noun* throws

throw *verb* throws, throwing, threw, thrown

thumb *noun* thumbs

thumb *verb* thumbs, thumbing, thumbed

thunderstorm *noun* thunderstorms

Thursday *noun* Thursdays

tick *noun* ticks

tick *verb* ticks, ticking, ticked

ticket *noun* tickets

ticket *verb* tickets, ticketing, ticketed

tidy *adjective* tidier, tidiest

tidy *verb* tidies, tidying, tidied

tie *noun* ties

tie *verb* ties, tying, tied

tiger *noun* tigers

tight *adjective* tighter, tightest

till *noun* tills

till *verb* tills, tilling, tilled

time *noun* times

time *verb* times, timing, timed

timetable *noun* timetables

tin *noun* tins

tin *verb* tins, tinning, tinned


tiny *adjective* tinier, tiniest

tip *noun* tips

tip *verb* tips, tipping, tipped

tire *noun* tires

tire *verb* tires, tiring, tired


 Do not confuse the spellings of *tire* and *tyre*:
*Since my illness I tire easily; Jonny's car needs
a new front tyre*

tissue *noun* tissues

title *noun* titles

title *verb* titles, titling, titled

to *preposition*


 The preposition *to* is spelt with one *o*, the
adverb *too* has two *os*, and the number *two* is
spelt with *wo*

toast *noun* toasts

toast *verb* toasts, toasting, toasted

toaster *noun* toasters

toe *noun* toes

 Do not confuse *toe* with *tow*. A *toe* is part of a
foot. To *tow* something means to pull it along

toilet *noun* toilets

tomato *noun* tomatoes

tomorrow* *noun* tomorrows

tongue* *noun* tongues

too *adverb*

tooth *noun* teeth

toothache *noun* toothaches

toothbrush *noun* toothbrushes

toothpaste *noun* toothpastes

top *noun* tops

top *verb* tops, topping, topped

topic *noun* topics

tore *verb*

total *noun* totals

total *verb* totals, totalling, totalled

touch *noun* touches

touch *verb* touches, touching, touched

tour *noun* tours


tour *verb* tours, touring, toured

tourist *noun* tourists

tournament *noun* tournaments

tow *noun* tows

tow *verb* tows, towing, towed

 Do not confuse *tow* with *toe*. To *tow* something means to pull it along. A *toe* is part of a foot

towel *noun* towels

towel *verb* towels, towelling, towelled

tower *noun* towers

tower *verb* towers, towering, towered

town *noun* towns

toy *noun* toys

toy *verb* toys, toying, toyed

track *noun* tracks

track *verb* tracks, tracking, tracked

trade *noun* trades

trade *verb* trades, trading, traded

traffic *verb* traffics, trafficking, trafficked

train *noun* trains

train *verb* trains, training, trained

trainer *noun* trainers

tram *noun* trams

transfer *noun* transfers

transfer *verb* transfers, transferring, transferred

translate *verb* translates, translating, translated

translation *noun* translations

transport *noun* transports

transport *verb* transports, transporting, transported

transportation* *noun*

trash *verb* trashes, trashing, trashed

travel *noun* travels

travel *verb* travels, travelling, travelled

traveller *noun* travellers

tree *noun* trees

trend *noun* trends

trick *noun* tricks

trick *verb* tricks, tricking, tricked

trip *noun* trips

trip *verb* trips, tripping, tripped

triple *noun* triples

triple *verb* triples, tripling, tripled

trouble *noun* troubles

trouble *verb* troubles, troubling, troubled

truck *noun* trucks

true *adjective* truer, truest

truly *adverb*

trumpet *noun* trumpets

trumpet *verb* trumpets, trumpeting, trumpeted

trunk *noun* trunks

trust *noun* trusts

trust *verb* trusts, trusting, trusted

truth *noun* truths

try *noun* tries

try *verb* tries, trying, tried



Remember that the past tense of *try* is *tried*

T-shirt *noun* T-shirts

tube *noun* tubes

Tuesday *noun* Tuesdays

tummy *noun* tummies

tuna *noun* tuna, tunas

tune *noun* tunes

tune *verb* tunes, tuning, tuned

tunnel *noun* tunnels

tunnel *verb* tunnels, tunnelling, tunnelled

turkey *noun* turkeys

turn *noun* turns

turn *verb* turns, turning, turned

turning *noun* turnings

TV *noun* TVs

twelfth *noun* twelfths

twelve *noun* twelves


twentieth *noun* twentieths

twenty *noun* twenties

twin *noun* twins

twin *verb* twins, twinning, twinned


two *noun* twos

 Do not confuse the spelling of the preposition *to*, the adverb *too*, and the number *two*

type *noun* types

type *verb* types, typing, typed

tyre *noun* tyres

 Do not confuse the spellings of *tyre* and *tire*:
Jonny's car needs a new front tyre; Since my illness I tire easily

Uu

ugly *adjective* uglier, ugliest

umbrella *noun* umbrellas

uncle *noun* uncles

underground *noun* undergrounds

underline *verb* underlines, underlining, underlined

understand *verb* understands, understanding, understood

undress *verb* undresses, undressing, undressed

unfit *adjective*

unfriendly *adjective* unfriendlier, unfriendliest

unhappy *adjective* unhappier, unhappiest

unhealthy *adjective* unhealthier, unhealthiest

uniform *noun* uniforms

union *noun* unions

unit *noun* units

universe *noun* universes

university *noun* universities

unkind *adjective* unkinder, unkindest

unknown *adjective*

unlikely *adjective* unlikely, unlikely

unlucky *adjective* unluckier, unluckiest

unpack *verb* unpacks, unpacking, unpacked

untidy *adjective* untidier, untidiest

upload *verb* uploads, uploading, uploaded

upper *noun* uppers

upset *noun* upsets

upset *verb* upsets, upsetting, upset

use *noun* uses

use *verb* uses, using, used

useful *adjective*

user *noun* users

usual *adjective*

usually *adverb*

Vv

vain *adjective* vainer, vainest



Do not confuse the spellings of *vain*, *vane* and *vein*. *Vain* means proud or conceited. A *vane* shows which way the wind is blowing. A *vein* carries blood to the heart

valley *noun* valleys

valuable *adjective*

value *noun* values

value *verb* values, valuing, valued

van *noun* vans

vane *noun* vanes

variety* *noun* varieties

various *adjective*

vase *noun* vases

vegetable *noun* vegetables

vegetarian* *noun* vegetarians

vehicle* *noun* vehicles

vein *noun* veins

verb *noun* verbs

vet *noun* vets

vet *verb* vets, vetting, vetted

veterinary* *adjective*

video *noun* videos

video *verb* videos, videoing, videoed

view *noun* views

view *verb* views, viewing, viewed

village *noun* villages

violin *noun* violins

virus *noun* viruses

visa *noun* visas

visit *noun* visits

visit *verb* visits, visiting, visited

visitor *noun* visitors

visual *adjective*

vocabulary* *noun* vocabularies

voice *noun* voices

voice *verb* voices, voicing, voiced

volleyball *noun* volleyballs

volume *noun* volumes

voluntary *adjective*

volunteer *noun* volunteers

volunteer *verb* volunteers, volunteering, volunteered

vote *noun* votes

vote *verb* votes, voting, voted


vowel *noun* vowels

Ww

wage *noun* wages

wage *verb* wages, waging, waged

waist *noun* waists

 Do not confuse *waist* with *waste*. Your *waist* is the middle part of your body. To *waste* something is to use more of it than necessary

wait *noun* waits

wait *verb* waits, waiting, waited



Do not confuse *wait* with *weight*. To *wait* is to rest or pause. The *weight* of something is how heavy it is

waiter *noun* waiters

waitress *noun* waitresses

waive *verb* waives, waiving, waived



Do not confuse the spellings of *waive* and *wave*:
All the bands in the concert have waived their fees; Aileen looked over and waved at me

wake *noun* wakes

wake *verb* wakes, waking, woke, woken



Remember that the past tense of *wake* is *woke* and the past participle is *woken*

walk *noun* walks

walk *verb* walks, walking, walked

wall *noun* walls

wallet *noun* wallets

wander *verb* wanders, wandering, wandered



Do not confuse the spellings of *wander* and *wonder*: *We wandered through the gardens; I wondered why she had been trying to contact me*

want *noun* wants

want *verb* wants, wanting, wanted

war *noun* wars

war *verb* wars, warring, warred

wardrobe *noun* wardrobes

warm *adjective* warmer, warmest

warm *verb* warms, warming, warmed

warn *verb* warns, warning, warned

warning *noun* warnings

wash *noun* washes

wash *verb* washes, washing, washed

wasn't



This is short for *was not*. Put the apostrophe between the *n* and the *t*

waste *noun* wastes

waste *verb* wastes, wasting, wasted



Do not confuse *waste* with *waist*. To *waste* something is to use more of it than necessary. Your *waist* is the middle part of your body

watch *noun* watches

watch *verb* watches, watching, watched

water *noun* waters

water *verb* waters, watering, watered

waterfall *noun* waterfalls

wave *noun* waves

wave *verb* waves, waving, waved



Do not confuse the spellings of *wave* and *waive*:
Aileen looked over and waved to me; All the bands in the concert have waived their fees

way *noun* ways



Do not confuse the spellings of *way* and *weigh*:
What is the quickest way to Woodfarm from here?; Weigh your ingredients carefully

weak *adjective* weaker, weakest

wear *verb* wears, wearing, wore, worn



Remember that the past tense is *wore* and the past participle is *worn*

weather *noun*



Do not confuse *weather* with *whether*. *Weather* is a noun we use to talk about rain, snow, sun, etc: *The weather was great in Italy*. *Whether* is a conjunction used to talk about a choice or doubt between two or more things: *I can't decide whether to have soup or salad*

web *noun* webs

webcam *noun* webcams

we'd



This is short for *we would* or *we had*. Put the apostrophe between the *e* and the *d*

wedding *noun* weddings

Wednesday *noun* Wednesdays



Spelling tip: *Joe WED NESsa on WEDNESday*

week *noun* weeks

weekday *noun* weekdays

weekend *noun* weekends

weekly *noun* weeklies

weigh *verb* weighs, weighing, weighed

weight *noun* weights



Do not confuse *weight* with *wait*. The *weight* of something is how heavy it is. To *wait* is to rest or pause

welcome *noun* welcomes

welcome *verb* welcomes, welcoming, welcomed

well *adverb* better, best

well *noun* wells

we'll



This is short for *we will* or *we shall*. Put the apostrophe between the *e* and the first *l*

were *verb*



Were is the past tense of *be* when the subject is plural: *We were very happy*



Do not confuse *were* and *we're*: *They were going to tell you; We're not leaving until we get paid*

we're



This is short for *we are*. Put the apostrophe

between the first *e* and the *r*

weren't



This is short for *were not*. Put the apostrophe between the *n* and the *t*

west *noun*

wet *adjective* wetter, wettest

wet *verb* wets, wetting, wet or wetted

we've



This is short for *we have*. Put the apostrophe between the first *e* and the *v*

whale *noun* whales

what *determiner*

wheelchair *noun* wheelchairs

when *adverb*

where *adverb*

whether* *conjunction*



Do not confuse *whether* with *weather*. *Weather* is a noun we use to talk about rain, snow, sun, etc: *The weather was great in Italy*. *Whether* is a conjunction used to talk about a choice or doubt between two or more things: *I can't decide whether to have soup or salad*

which *determiner*



Do not confuse *which* and *witch*. *Which* is used to ask questions: *Which one is mine?* A *witch* is a woman who uses witchcraft

while *conjunction*

white *adjective* whiter, whitest

white *noun* whites


whiteboard *noun* whiteboards

who'd




This is short for *who would*. Put the apostrophe between the *o* and the *d*


whole *noun* wholes


 Do not confuse the spellings of *whole* and *hole*:
Emily was away for the whole of July; You have a hole in your sock

who'll

 This is short for *who will*. Put the apostrophe between the *o* and the first *l*

who's

 Do not confuse *who's* and *whose*: *Who's next in line?; Whose hat is this?*

 *Who's* is short for *who is* or *who has*. Put the apostrophe between the *o* and the *s*

whose *determiner*

why *adverb*

wide *adjective* wider, widest

wife *noun* wives

wild *adjective* wilder, wildest

wild *noun* wilds

will *noun* wills

will *verb* wills, willing, willed


win *noun* wins

win *verb* wins, winning, won

wind *noun* winds

wind *verb* winds, winding, winded

wind *verb* winds, winding, wound

 The verb forms for *wind* (to cause someone to be short of breath) are *winds*, *winding* and *winded*.
The verb forms for *wind* (to coil or wrap around) are *winds*, *winding* and *wound*

window *noun* windows

windscreen *noun* windscreens

windy *adjective* windier, windiest

wine *noun* wines

wine *verb* wines, wining, wine

wing *noun* wings


winner *noun* winners

winter *noun* winters

wish *noun* wishes


wish *verb* wishes, wishing, wished

witch *noun* witches

 Do not confuse *witch* and *which*. A *witch* is a woman who uses witchcraft. *Which* is used to ask questions: *Which one is mine?*


woman *noun* women

won *verb*


 Do not confuse the spellings of *won* and *one*. *Won* is the past tense of *win*. *One* is a number

wonder *noun* wonders


wonder *verb* wonders, wondering, wondered

 Do not confuse the spellings of *wonder* and *wander*: *I wondered why she had been trying to contact me; We wandered through the gardens*

won't

 This is short for *will not*. Put the apostrophe between the *n* and the *t*

wood *noun* woods

 Do not confuse *wood* and *would*: *Would you like to come for lunch?; We collected some wood for the bonfire; They walked into the woods*

wool *noun* wools

word *noun* words

work *noun* works

work *verb* works, working, worked

workbook *noun* workbooks

worker *noun* workers

working *noun* workings

workout *noun* workouts

worksheet *noun* worksheets

world *noun* worlds

worry *noun* worries

worry *verb* worries, worrying, worried

worth *noun*

would *verb*

wouldn't



This is short for *would not*. Put the apostrophe between the *n* and the *t*

wow *interjection*

wrap *noun* wraps

wrap *verb* wraps, wrapping, wrapped



Do not confuse the spellings of *wrap* and *rap*: *I have wrapped all my Christmas presents; The teacher rapped the table with a ruler*

wreck *noun* wrecks

wreck *verb* wrecks, wrecking, wrecked

write *verb* writes, writing, wrote, written



Do not confuse the spellings of *write*, *right* and *rite*: *Write your name on the jotter; Is that the right answer?; the marriage rites of the Christian church*



Remember that the past tense of *write* is *wrote*

writer *noun* writers

writing *noun* writings

wrong *noun* wrongs

wrong *verb* wrongs, wronging, wronged

Yy

yacht *noun* yachts

yard *noun* yards

year *noun* years

yearly *adjective*

yellow *adjective* yellower, yellowest

yellow *noun* yellows

yellow *verb* yellows, yellowing, yellowed

yes *interjection*

yesterday *noun* yesterdays

yoga *noun*

yogurt *noun* yogurts

you'd



This is short for *you would* or *you had*. Put the apostrophe between the *u* and the *d*

you'll



This is short for *you will*. Put the apostrophe between the *u* and the first *l*

young *adjective* younger, youngest

your *determiner*



Do not confuse the spellings of *your* and *you're*.
Your is a determiner showing possession and
you're is short for *you are*: *Don't forget your phone; You're joking, aren't you?*

you're



This is short for *you are*. Put the apostrophe between the *u* and the *r*

yourself *pronoun* yourselves

youth *noun* youths

you've



This is short for *you have*. Put the apostrophe between the *u* and the *v*

Zz

zero *noun* zeros or zeroes

zero *verb* zeroes, zeroing, zeroed

zone *noun* zones

zone *verb* zones, zoning, zoned

zoo *noun* zoos

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HarperCollins Publishers
Westerhill Road
Bishopbriggs
Glasgow
G64 2QT


First Edition 2014

© HarperCollins Publishers 2014

eBook Edition © June 2014 ISBN 978-0-00-758357-7
Version: 2014-05-19

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