

## Year 3 and 4 Spelling Rules – On One Page

The Year 3 and 4 List – words which should be known and used correctly in all writing. You must not spell these words incorrectly!

accident(ally)	early	knowledge	purpose
actual(ly)	earth	learn	quarter
address	eight/eighth	length	question
answer	enough	library	recent
appear	exercise	material	regular
arrive	experience	medicine	reign
believe	experiment	mention	remember
bicycle	extreme	minute	sentence
breath	famous	natural	separate
breathe	favourite	naughty	special
build	February	notice	straight
busy/business	forward(s)	occasion(ally)	strange
calendar	fruit	often	strength
caught	grammar	opposite	suppose
centre	group	ordinary	surprise
century	guard	particular	therefore
certain	guide	peculiar	though/although
circle	heard	perhaps	thought
complete	heart	popular	through
consider	height	position	various
continue	history	possess(ion)	weight
decide	imagine	possible	woman/women
describe	increase	potatoes	
different	important	pressure	
difficult	interest	probably	
disappear	island	promise	

The Rules – all need to be learned and understood, with example words spelt correctly:

For teaching, look online for more examples of the same words, e.g. spellzone, [www.morewords.com](http://www.morewords.com) and [www.wordfind.com](http://www.wordfind.com)

Adding suffixes (that begin with a vowel) to words with more than one syllable (study whether or not the last letter is doubled – depends on the stress of the final syllable of the root word).

e.g. forgetting, forgotten, beginning, beginner, preferred (doubled) and gardening, gardener, limiting, limited, limitation, etc.

'y' making this one sound elsewhere than at the end of the word, where it is more common.  
e.g. myth, gym, Egypt, pyramid, mystery – learn the words and how they are unusual.

The 'uh' sound spelt 'ou' e.g. cousin, young, touch, double, trouble, country, etc,

More prefixes and their meanings (note that most don't change the root word and if letters get doubled its because they have been added to one which already existed e.g. mis+spell = misspell).

e.g. un: unhappy, uncomfortable / dis: disagree, disobey, disappoint / mis: misbehave, mislead, misspell – note this is 'mis' and 'spell' so follows the rules.

re: redo, refresh, return, reappear, redecorate

sub: subheading, submerge, submerge

inter: interact, intercity, international, interrelated

super: supermarket, superman, superstar

anti: antiseptic, anticlockwise, antisocial

auto: autobiography, autograph

in: (can mean 'inside' or 'no/not') incorrect, inactive.

'in' becomes 'il' if the root begins with 'l' – illegal, illegible

'in' becomes 'im' if the root begins with 'm' or 'p' – impossible, impolite, impatient, immature, immortal

'in' becomes 'ir' if the root word begins with 'r' – irregular, irresponsible, irrelevant

More suffixes and their meanings (not e's are dropped if another vowel is added in the suffix – English spelling doesn't like unrelated vowels clashed together so 'admire' to 'admiration' requires dropping the 'e')

-ation: information, adoration, sensation, preparation, admiration

-ly: extremely, sadly, completely, finally – final plus ly, not doubled / usually – usual plus ly, not doubled (as it starts with a consonant, 'ly' is added straight on to almost all words with no changing to the root)

-ly exceptions do include: words ending in 'y' e.g. happily, angrily / 'le' endings become 'ly' e.g. gently, simply / 'ic' endings need 'ally' basically, frantically, dramatically

-sure and -ture suffixes: measure, treasure, pleasure, enclosure, creature, furniture, picture, nature, adventure

-sion (note the different sound compared to -tion) division, invasion, confusion, decision, television

-ous (poisonous, dangerous, famous, various) Note that 'our' becomes 'or' before 'ous' added (humorous, glamorous)

Note that soft 'ge' needs to keep the 'e' in order to keep it a soft 'ge' – courageous, outrageous.

Note that 'i' sounds before 'ous' vary from 'e' to 'i' – spontaneous, hideous, serious, obvious

'tion' endings – tion, sion, ssion, cian: invention, injection, action, hesitation, expression, discussion, confession (route word ends in 'ss'), sion sounding differently: division, invasion, etc, and sion sounding like 'tion' if the root word ends in 'd' or 'se': tension, extension, comprehension. cian is used if the word ends in 'c' or 'cs' and the words tend to be careers: electrician, optician, magician, politician

Hard 'c' sounds spelt 'ch' – scheme, chorus, echo, chemist, character

'sh' sound spelt as 'ch' (mostly French origins) – chef, chalet, machine, brochure

'gue' and 'que' – league, tongue, antique, unique

's' spelt 'sc' (Latin origins) – science, scene, discipline, fascinate, crescent

'ey' 'eigh' 'ei' – vein, weight, eight, neighbour, they, obey

Possessive apostrophe with plural words – girls' boys' babies' children's men's mice's (write the word as a plural first, then add the apostrophe)

Homophones and near-homophones – children must learn to differentiate between these with confidence early on

Suggested:

accept/except, affect/effect, ball/bawl, berry/bury, brake/break, fair/fare, grate/great, groan/grown, here/hear, heel/heal/he'll, knot/not, mail/male, main/mane, meat/meet, medal/meddle, missed/mist, peace/piece, plain/plane, rain/rein/reign, scene/seen, weather/whether, whose/who's

More common homophones:

there/their/they're

here/hear

prayer/pray/prey

compliment/complement

bury/berry

morning/mourning

thrown/throne

whose/who's

led/lead

whole/hole

scent/cent/sent

seller/cellar

desert/dessert

piece/peace

threw/through

steel/steal

which/witch

draw/drawer

your/you're

aloud/allowed

license/licence

seen/scene

stationary/stationery

profit/prophet

There are lots more of these! Please try to look out for and learn them!