**Dfe guidance for years 5 and 6**

| Statutory Requirements | Rules and Guidance (non-statutory) | Spelling Pattern |
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| Endings which sound like  ʃspelt –cious or –tious / əs/ | Not many common words end like this.  If the root word ends in **–ce**, the  sound is usually spelt as **c** – e.g. *vice – vicious*, *grace – gracious*, *space – spacious*, *malice – malicious.*  **Exception**: *anxious*. /ʃ/ | ious |
| Endings which sound like | **–cial** is common after a vowel letter and **–tial** after a consonant letter, but there are some exceptions.  **Exceptions**: initial, financial, commercial, provincial (the spelling of the last three is clearly related to *finance*, *commerce* and *province*). | cial |
| tial |
| Words ending  in –ant,  –ance/–ancy,  -ent,  –ence/–ency | Use –ant and –ance/–ancy if there is a related word with a /æ/ or /eɪ/ sound in the right position; –ation endings are often a clue. | ant and ance suffix |
| Use –ent and –ence/–ency after soft c (/s/ sound), soft g (/dʒ/ sound) and qu, or if there is a related word with a clear /ɛ/ sound in the right position. There are many words, however, where the above guidance does not help. These words just have to be learnt. | ent suffix |
| Words ending  in –able and  –ible  Words ending  in –ably and  –ibly | The –able/–ably endings are far more common than the –ible/–ibly endings.As with –ant and –ance/–ancy, the –able ending is used if there is a related word ending in –ation. | able suffix |
| ible suffix |
| ibly suffix |
| ance suffix |
| If the –able ending is added to a word ending in –ce or –ge, the e after the cor g must be kept as those letters would otherwise have their ‘hard’ sounds (as in cap and gap) before the a of the –able ending. The –able ending is usually but not always used if a complete root word can be heard before it, even if there is no related word ending in –ation. The first five examples opposite are obvious; in reliable, the complete word ation suffix ely is heard, but the y changes to I in accordance with the rule. The –ible ending is common if a complete root word can’t be heard before it but it also sometimes occurs when a complete word can be heard (e.g. sensible). | ation suffix |
| Adding suffixes  beginning with  vowel letters to  words ending  in –fer | The r is doubled if the –fer is still stressed when the ending is added. | fer words |
| The r is not doubled if the –fer is no longer stressed. | double r |
| Use of the  hyphen | Hyphens can be used to join a prefix to a root word, especially if the prefix ends in a vowel letter and the root word also begins with one. |  |
| Words with the  /i:/ sound spelt  ei after c | The ‘i before e except after c’ rule applies to words where the sound spelt by ei is /i:/.Exceptions: protein, caffeine, seize (and either and neither if pronounced with an initial /i:/ sound). | i before e except after c |
| i before e except after c exceptions |
| Words containing the letter-string ough | ough is one of the trickiest spellings in English – it can be used to spell a number of different sounds. | ough words |
| Words with ‘silent’ letters  (i.e. letters whose presence cannot be predicted from the pronunciation of the word) | Some letters which are no longer sounded used to be sounded hundreds of years ago: e.g. in knight, there was a /k/ sound before the /n/, and the gh used to represent the sound that ‘ch’ now represents in the Scottish word loch. |  |
| Homophones  and other  words that are  often confused | In the pairs of words opposite, nouns end –ce and verbs end –se. Advice and advise provide a useful clue as the word advise (verb) is pronounced with a /z/ sound – which could not be spelt c. |  |
| Keywords | accommodate, accompany, according, achieve, aggressive, amateur, ancient, apparent, appreciate, attached, available, , immediate, average, awkward, bargain |  |
| bruise, category, cemetery, committee, communicate, community, competition, conscience, conscious, controversy, convenience, correspond, criticise, critic, curiosity |  |
| definite, desperate, determined, develop, dictionary, disastrous, embarrass, environment, equipment, equip, equipped, especially, exaggerate, excellent, existence |  |
| explanation, familiar, foreign, forty, frequently, government, guarantee, harass, hindrance, identity, immediately, individual, interfere, interrupt, language |  |
| leisure, lightning, marvellous, mischievous, muscle, necessary, neighbour, nuisance, occupy, occur, opportunity, parliament, persuade, physical, prejudice |  |
| privilege, profession, programme, pronunciation, queue, recognise, recommend, relevant, restaurant, rhyme, rhythm, sacrifice, secretary, shoulder, signature |  |
| sincere, sincerely, soldier, stomach, sufficient, suggest, symbol, system, temperature, thorough, twelfth, variety, vegetable, vehicle, yacht |  |
| Revision  (Set I (year 5) taken from Set G (year 3)  Set J (year 6) taken from Set H (year 4) | Like un–, the prefixes dis– and mis– have negative meanings. | mis prefix |
| **sub–** means ‘under’.  **inter–** means ‘between’ or ‘among’. | sub and inter prefix |
| **inter–** means ‘between’ or ‘among’. | ation suffix |
|  | changing e to sion |
|  | ch words with a k sound |
|  | ch words with a s sound |
| Before a root word starting with **r**, **in–** becomes **ir–**. | ir prefix |
| The prefix **in–** can mean both ‘not’ and ‘in’/‘into’. In the words given here it means ‘not’. | in prefix |
| The ending soundng like /ʒə/ is always spelt –sure.  The ending sounding like /tʃə/ is often spelt –ture, but check that the word is not a root word ending in (t)ch with an er ending – e.g. teacher, catcher, richer, stretcher. | sure suffix |
| ture suffix |
| If the last syllable of a word is stressed and ends with one consonant letter which has just one vowel letter before it, the final consonant letter is doubled before any ending beginning with a vowel letter is added. The consonant letter is not doubled if the syllable is unstressed. | double consonants |
| Most prefixes are added to the beginning of root words without any changes in spelling, but see in– below. | un prefix |
|  | ily suffix |
|  | ally suffix |
| Most prefixes are added to the beginning of root words without any changes in spelling, but see **in–** below. | ous suffix |
|  | ssion suffix |
|  | que and gue suffix |
|  | ch words with a k sound |
|  | sc words with a s sound |
|  | il prefix |