**Spelling** **Progression Guidance**: **through the Primary School from Year 1**

This guidance closely follows the new curriculum Programme of Study for English for 2014. Teachers will need to assess children first, in order to decide what is appropriate for their pupils.

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| Year Group | Expected | Spelling pattern, rule or tip | Word suggestions |
| Year 1 Revision of Reception work | * Revise all letters of the alphabet, and the sounds they commonly represent
* Revise consonant digraphs
* Revise vowel digraphs which have been taught
* Revise the process of segmenting words
* Revise words with adjacent consonants
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| Year 1 | **Statutory**:* These vowel digraphs and trigraphs:
* ai, oi, ay, oy, a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e, ar, ee, ea, er, ir, ur, oo, *oo*, oa, oe, ou, ow, ue, ew, ie, igh, or, ore, aw, au air, ear, are
* The sounds f, l, s, k spelt ff, ll, ss, zz, and ck
* nk
* -tch
* v phoneme at the end of words
* division of words into syllables
* adding **s** and **es**, either as plural nouns or third person singular of verbs
* adding **-ing, -ed** and **-er** to verbs where the root word doesn’t change
* adding **-er** and **-est** to adjectives where the root word doesn’t change
* Words ending **-y**
* Consonant spellings **ph** and **wh**
* Using **k** for the k sound
* Prefix **un**
* Compound words
* Common exception words (tricky words / red words)
 | Digraphs **ai** and **oi** are not used at the end of English words.**ay** and **oy** are used at the ends of words and the end of syllablesThese sounds are usually spelt with double letters if they follow a single vowel in short words. **Exceptions:** *if, pal, us, bus yes.*Most English words add an **e** after the **v**Each syllable is like a beat in the spoken word. Words of more than one syllable often have an unstressed syllable in which the vowel sound is unclear.If the ending sounds like ‘s’ or ‘z’, it is spelt as **–s**. If the ending sounds like ‘iz’ and forms an extra beat, it is spelt as **–es**.**-ing** and **-er** always add an extra syllable, **-ed** sometimes doesIf the adjective ends in two consonant letters (same or different), the ending is simply added on.**ph** is unusual in short everyday words *e.g. fat, fill, fun***un** is added to the beginning of the word without any change to the root word.Two words joined together, spelt the same way as if on their own.Look at grapheme /phoneme correspondences which do/do not fit in with what has been taught so far. | rain, wait, oil, join, day, play, boy, toy, made, came, these, theme, five, ride, home, those, June, rule, car, start, see tree, sea, dream, head, bread, her, term, better, under, girl, bird, turn, hurt, food, pool, book, took, boat, coat, toe, goes, now, how, blue, clue, new, few, lie, tie, chief, field, high, night, for, short, more, score, saw, draw, author, August, air, fair, dear, hear, bear, pear, bare (See POS for further suggestions.)off, well, miss, buzz, backbank, think, honk, sunkcatch, fetch kitchenhave, live, givepocket, rabbit, carrot, thunder, sunsetcats, dogs, rocks, catcheshunting, hunted, hunter, buzzing, buzzed, buzzer, jumping, jumped, jumpergrander, grandest,fresher, freshest,quicker, quickestvery, happy, party, familydolphin, alphabet, phonics, elephant,when, where, which, wheel, whileKent, sketch, kit, friskyunhappy, undo, unfairfootball, playground, bedroom, blackberrythe, a, do, today, of, said, says, are, were, was, is, his, has, I, you, your, they, be, he, me, she, we, no, go, so, by, my, here, there, where, love, come, some, one, once, ask, friend, school, put, push, pull, full, house, our |
| Year 2 | Revision from Year 1. Phonic knowledge continues to underpin spelling, but morphology becomes important, as pupils begin to learn about root words and suffixes. Show the relationship between the meaning and spelling of words.**Statutory:*** **dge** or **ge** phoneme at the ends of words
* **s** phoneme, spelt ‘c’ (soft c)
* **n** phoneme, spelt ‘kn’ and ‘gn’
* **r** phoneme, spelt ‘wr’
* **l** phoneme, spelt ‘le’ at the ends of words
* **l** phoneme, spelt ‘el’
* **l** phoneme, spelt ‘al’
* Words ending ‘**il**’
* **-y** (long ‘i’ phoneme) at the ends of words
* adding **-es** to nouns and verbs ending in **–y**
* adding **-ed, -ing, -er** and

**-est** to a root word ending in **–y** with a consonant before it.* adding **-ing, -ed, -er –est** and **–y** to words ending in **-e**, with a consonant before it.
* adding **-ing, -ed, -er, -est** and **-y** to words of one syllable, ending in a single consonant letter after a single vowel letter.
* the **or** phoneme, spelt **a**
* the short **u** phoneme, spelt **o**
* the phoneme made by the grapheme -**ey**
* the phoneme (short o) spelt **a**, after the letters **w** and **qu**
* the phoneme spelt **or** after **w**
* the phoneme spelt **ar** after w
* the rare phoneme spelt ‘s’ in some words (see list)
* suffixes **-ment, -ness, -ful, -less** and **-ly**
* Contractions
* Possessive apostrophe – singular nouns
* -tion
* Homophones and near- homophones
* Common exception words

(tricky words) | Revise previously taught GPCs, when introducing new ones. Many words will contain both.The letter **j** is never used for the ‘dge’ sound at the ends of English words;**dge** is usually used after short vowels.We usually use a **g** before e,i and y. We always use **j** before a, o and u.The k and g at the beginning of these words was sounded hundreds of years ago.Also reflects old pronunciation**-le** is the most common spelling for this sound at the ends of words.Less common than **–le**. Used after m,n,r,s,v,w and often s.A few nouns and several adjectives.The most common spelling for this sound at the ends of words.Change the **y** to an **i** before adding **-es**Change the y to an i before adding the suffix, except for -**ing**. The only ordinary words with ‘ii’ are skiing and taxiing.Drop the **-e** at the end of the root word before **-ing, -ed, -er, -est, -y** or any other suffix beginning with a vowel. The exception is **being**.Double the last consonant letter of the root word, to keep the vowel short.**Exception**: the letter **x** is never doubled: *mixing, boxer, sixes*The plural of these words is formed by adding **-s**  *e.g. donkeys, monkeys.***a** is the most common spelling for the ‘short o’ sound, after **w** and **qu**If a suffix starts with a consonant, it is usually simply added on.**Exceptions:** 1) argument2) Root words ending in **–y**, if the root has more than one syllable e.g. merriment, happiness, plentiful, penniless, happilyIn contractions, the apostrophe shows the letter/s which have been omitted e.g. can’t – cannotWhen the owner is **singular**, the apostrophe is placed **before** the s.It is important to know the difference in meaning between homophones.Some words are exceptions in some accents but not in others, e.g. past, bath | badge, edge, bridgeage, huge, changegem, giant, magicjacket, jar, jog, join, jumprace, ice, cell, city, fancyknock, know, kneegnat, gnawwrite, wrong, wrap, wrotetable, apple, bottle, littlecamel, tunnel, squirrel, travel, towel, tinselmetal, pedal, hospital, animalfinal, special, critical,nostril, pencil, fossilcry, fly, dry, try, reply, Julyflies, tries, babies, carriescopied, copier, happier, happiest, cried, replied, …**but** copying, cryingskiing, taxiing,hiking, hiked, hiker, nicer, nicest, shinypatting, humming, dropped, sadder, fattest, runnyalways, all, ball, walk, talkother, mother brother, nothing, Mondaykey, donkey, monkey, chimney, valleywant, watch, wander, quantity, squashword, work, worm, worldwar, warm, towardstreasure, television, usualenjoyment, sadness, careful, playful, hopeless, plainness, badlycan’t, didn’t, hasn’t, couldn’t, it’s, I’llMegan’s, Ravi’s, the girl’s, the child’s, the man’sstation, fiction, motion, national, sectionthere/their/they’re, here/hear, quite/quiet, see/sea, bare/bear, one/won, sun/son, to/too/two, be/bee, blue/blew, night/knightdoor, floor, poor because, find, kind, mind, behind, child, children, wild, climb, most, only, both, old, cold, gold, hold, told, every, everybody, even, great, break, steak, pretty, beautiful, after, fast, last, past, father, class, grass, pass, plant, path, bath, hour, move, prove, improve, sure, sugar, eye, could, should, would, who, whole, any, many, clothes, busy, people, water, again, half, money, Mr, Mrs, parents, Christmas |
| Yrs 3 &4 | **The new POS links Years 3 & 4 together. This guidance has split requirements into suggested yearly coverage, which should be adapted to suit pupil ability.** | Increasingly, pupils need to understand the role of **morphology** and **etymology**, and to understand the link between meaning and spelling, where relevant. |  |
| Year 3 | **Revision** of Year 2 coverage. Most children will need to revise and consolidate these important, basic conventions, as they form part of everyday language. Homophones will need revision throughout lower KS2. Use end of KS1 teacher assessments of spelling against the POS, to identify where to begin in Year 3.**Statutory:*** Adding suffixes beginning with vowels (to words of more than one syllable)
* The short **u** phoneme, spelt **ou**
* Prefixes **dis, mis, in, super, anti**
* Suffix **-ation**
* Suffix **-ly**
* Words with endings as in trea**sure**
* Words with endings as in pic**ture**
* Words with endings **–tion**, **–sion** and **–ssion**
* Words with the ‘**ay**’ phoneme, spelt **ei, eigh** or **ey**
* Possessive apostrophe with plural words

(Revise apostrophe with singular owners first.)* Extend known homophones or near-homophones
* Further contractions (not included in new POS)
 | If the last syllable is stressed and ends with one consonant (which has one preceding vowel) the final consonant is doublede.g. forgettingAdd most prefixes to the root without changing the spelling.Like **un-**, the prefixes **dis-** and **mis-** have negative meanings.**super-** means **above****anti-** means **against****-ation** is added to verbs to make nouns**-ly** is added to an adjective to make an adverbAs **–ly** starts with a consonant, usually simply add to the root word.**Exceptions:** If the root ends in **–y** (with a consonant letter before it) change the **y** to **i.**If the root ends with **–le**, change it to **–ly.**Always spelt **–sure**Can be confused with words like **teacher** or **richer**.Clues about whether to put **t**, **s** or **ss** before the suffix **–ion** often come from the last letter/s of the root word.**-tion** is the most common.**-ssion** is used if the root ends in **ss** or **mit**.**-sion** is used if the root ends in **d** or **se**.Place the apostrophe **after** the plural form of the word, e.g. **babies’****Exceptions:** see Year 4Extend range of contractions from Year 2. See right. | forgetting, forgotten, beginning, beginner, preferredyoung, touch, double, trouble, countrydisappoint, disagree, disobeymisbehave, mislead, misspellsupermarket, supermananti-clockwise, antisepticinformation, adoration, sensation, preparationsadly, usually, finally, completelyhappily, angrilygently, simply, humbly, noblytreasure, measure, pleasure, enclosurepicture, creature, furniture, nature, adventureinvention, injection, action, hesitation,tension, expansion, comprehension,expression, discussion, permission, admissionpossessionpermissionextend – extensionvein, weigh, weight, eight, neighbour, they, obeygirls’, boys’, babies’, donkeys’berry/bury, brake/break, fair/fare, grate/great, groan/grown, here/hear, heel/heal/he’ll, knot/not, mail/male, main/mane, meat/meet, missed/mist, peace/piece, plain/plane/ rain/rein/reign, weather/whether, whose/who’shaven’t, won’t, shouldn’t, shan’t, could’ve, would’ve, you’ll, he’ll, she’ll, they’ll, we’ll |
| Year 4 | Revision of Year 3 objectives throughout lower KS2. Extend and develop to Year 4 coverage below, as appropriate.**Statutory:*** Adding suffixes beginning with vowels (to words of more than one syllable)
* The short **‘i’** phoneme spelt **y** in the middle of words.
* Prefixes **in-, il-, im-, ir, re- sub-, inter-** and **auto**
* Suffix **–ly**
* Words with ending **–sion** (hard sound – e.g. television)
* Suffix **–ous**
* Words ending with **–cian**
* Words with the **k** phoneme, spelt **ch**
* Words with the **sh** phoneme, but spelt **ch**
* Words with the hard **g** phoneme, spelt **gue**
* Other words spelt **gue**
* Words with the **k** phoneme, spelt **que**
* Revise possessive apostrophe for singular and plural words.
* Possessive apostrophe for irregular plural words.
* Further homophones or near-homophones
 | If the last syllable is stressed and ends with one consonant (which has one preceding vowel) the final consonant is doubled e.g. **forgetting**: however, the consonant is not doubled if the syllable is unstressed, e.g. **gardener****in-** means both **‘not’** and **‘in/into’**.Before a root starting with **l,** **in-** beomes **il**.Before a root starting with **m** or **p, in-** becomes **im-**Before a root starting with **r, in-** becomes **ir-****re-** means **again** or **back****sub-** means **under** **auto-** means **self** or **own**Revise: the suffix **–ly** begins with a consonant, so usually it is added straight onto a root word.New: 3rd exception (see year 3 for others):If the root ends with **–ic**, then add **–ally** rather than just –ly, *(except in the word publicly.)*Sometimes the root word is obvious, e.g. **poisonous**. Sometimes there is no obvious root word e.g. **tremendous**.**-our** is changed to **-or** before adding **-ous**Keep the final **e** when using a soft **g**.If there is a short **i** sound before the suffix -**ous**, it is usually spelt with an **i**, but a few words have **e.****-cian** is used if the root word ends in **c** or **cs.** *(Note how many of these words show professions.)*French in origin.**Revise:** when the owner is singular, the apostrophe is placed before the s.**Revise:** when the owner is plural, the apostrophe is placed after the s.**New:** some owners are considered as a collective group, as if they were a single body. In this case, the apostrophe goes **before the s**, as with singular owners, e.g. **children’s.**Singular proper nouns ending in an **s** use the **‘s** suffix, e.g. Cyprus’sContinue to revise homophones from Year 3 | (Revise: beginning, forgetting)gardening, gardener, limiting, limited, limitationmyth, gym, Egypt, pyramid, mysteryincorrect, inactiveillegal, illegibleimmature, immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfectirregular, irrelevant, irresponsibleredo, refresh, return, reappear, redecoratesubmarine, subheadingautobiography, autograph, automaticcompletely, finallybasically, frantically, dramaticallydivision, invasion, confusion, decision, collision, televisionpoisonous, dangerous, mountainous, famous, varioustremendous, enormous, jealoushumorous, glamorous, vigorouscourageous, outrageousserious, obvious, curioushideous, spontaneous, courteousmusician, electrician, magician, politician, mathematicianscheme, chorus, chemist, echo, characterchef, chalet, machine, brochureleague, colleague, catalogue tongueantique, unique, cliqueSarah’s, Mr Black’ssquirrels’ tails; girls’ toiletchildren’s, men’s, women’s, firemen’s, policemen’s, mice’sCyprus’s, Chris’s, James’s*(Can also be written Chris’ or James’ – not in POS)*accept/except, affect/effect, ball/bawl, medal/meddle, scene/seen, |
| Yrs 5 & 6 | **The new POS links Years 5 & 6 together. This guidance has split requirements into suggested yearly coverage, which should be adapted to suit pupil ability. Some pupils in Year 5 will be able to access Year 6 work immediately.** |  |  |
| Year 5 | Revise spellings from previous years. Assess children against the POS for Years 3&4 in order to ascertain starting points.**Statutory:*** Words ending with **–cious** or **–tious**
* Words ending with **–cial** and **–tial**
* Words ending with **–ant,**

**-ance, -ancy, -ent, -ence, -ency*** Use of the hyphen
* Words with the long **e** (ee) phoneme, spelt **ei** after c
* Words containing **ough**
* Words with letters which are not sounded
* Further homophones or near-homophones
 | If the root ends in **–ce**, then the **–cious** ending is common, e.g. *grace – gracious***Exception**: anxious**-cial** is common after a vowel, and –tial after a consonant, but there are some exceptions.**Exceptions**: initial, financial, commercial, provincialUse **–ant, -ance** and **–ancy** if there is a related word with the long a phoneme *(see words in column right)*.Use **–ent, -ence** and **–ency** after a soft **c**, soft **g** or **qu****Exceptions:** there are many words, however, where the above guidelines don’t help. These words just have to be learnt. Pronouncing the words artificially, in the way they are spelt, can help children to remember.Hyphens can be used to join a prefix to a root, especially if the prefix ends in a vowel and the root also begins with one e.g. **co-ordinate**.Common rule: ‘**i** before **e**, except after **c**’, where the sound is spelt by **ei**.However, there are **Exceptions**:protein, caffeine, seize, neitherOne of the trickiest spellings.Can be used to spell a number of sounds.Some ‘silent’ letters used to be sounded many years ago, e.g. **k**nightIn these pairs of words, nouns end **-ce** and verbs end **-se** e.g. advice (noun) but advise (verb)**who’s** is a contraction of **who is** or **who has**;**whose** means belonging to someone | vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious, ambitious cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritiousofficial, special, artificialpartial, confidential, essentialinitial, commercial, provincialobservant, observance, (observ**a**tion)expectant (expect**a**tion)hesitant, hesitancy (hesit**a**tion)tolerant, tolerance (toler**a**tion)substance (subst**a**ntial)innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, confident, confidenceassistant, assistance, obedient, obedience, independent, independenceco-ordinate, re-enter, co-operate, co-owndeceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceilingought, bought, thoughtrough, tough, enoughcoughthough, although, doughthroughthorough, boroughploughdoubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knightadvice/advise,device/devise practice/practise, aloud/allowedfarther/further/father, guessed/guest, heard/herd, led/lead, past/passedcereal/serialsteal/steelwho’s/whose |
| Year 6 | Revision of Year 3, 4 and 5 objectives. Extend and develop to Year 6 coverage below, as appropriate.**Statutory:*** Words ending in **-able** and **-ible; -ably** and **–ibly**
* Adding suffixes to words ending with **–fer**
* *Further use of the hyphen (not part of statutory POS)*
* Further homophones and near-homophones
 | **-able** and **-ably** endings are far more common than **–ible/-ibly.****-ible** is common if a complete root cannot be heard**Exception**: sensibleWhen adding **–able** to a word ending with **–ce** or **–ge**, keep the **e**.**-able** is common if a complete root *can* be heard before it, e.g. depend dependable*(Not in POS) Some words can be spelt two ways, e.g. loveable, lovable*Double the **r** if the **-fer** is still stressed when the ending is added.Do not double the **r** if the **–fer** is no longer stressed.Use a hyphen with **compound adjectives**, to show that they are not a list of separate adjectives, e.g. little-used car, rather than little, used car.In these pairs of words, nouns end **–ce** and verbs end **–se** e.g. advice (noun) but advise (verb)**affect**: usually a verb e.g. The weather may affect our plans.**effect**: usually a noun e.g. It may have an effect on our plans.**principle**: basic truth or belief**principal**: adjective – most importantnoun – important person, such as principal of a college**stationary**: not moving**stationery**: paper etc | adorable/adorablyapplicable/applicablyconsiderable/considerablytolerable/tolerablypossible, horrible, terrible, visible, incrediblechange/changeablenotice/noticeable*(but force/forcible and legible)*dependable, comfortable, understandable, reasonable, enjoyable, reliablereferring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, transferring, transferredreference, referee, preference, transferencelittle-used, square-based,blue-eyed, bad-temperedlicence/license,prophecy/prophesy(See Yr 5 for more.)aisle/islealtar/alterascent/assentbridal/bridlemorning/mourningwary/wearyprofit/prophetaffect/effectprinciple, principalstationary, stationery |

In Years 3 to 6, see also the Word List for Years 3 and 4, and the Word List for Years 5 and 6 in Appendix 1 of the new Programme of Study.

Kent Cross-Phase Literacy Consultants

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