

Year 3 spelling overview 2025-2026

Each week children will be tested on a selection of words from the specified list.

Autumn 1

Week beginning: 15.09.25	
Rule: Words with the long /ai/ sound spelt with ei	
eight	vein
eighth	veil
eighty	beige
weight	sleigh
neighbour	freight

Week beginning: 22.09.25	
Rule: Words with the long /ai/ sound spelt with ey	
hey	whey
they	survey
obey	convey
grey	disobey
prey	purvey

Week beginning: 29.09.25	
Rule: Words with the long /ai/ sound spelt with ai	
straight	claim
campaign	praise
contain	complaint
brain	afraid
faint	waist

Week beginning: 06.10.25	
Rule: Words with /ur/ sound spelt with ear	
earth	pearl
early	search
learn	unearth
heard	earl
earn	rehearse

Week beginning: 13.10.25	
Rule: Words with /k/ sound spelt with 'ch'	
scheme	chaos
chorus	stomach
echo	chemistry
character	orchestra
ache	technology

Week beginning: 20.10.25	
Rule: Homophones and near homophones	
berry	meat
bury	ball
brake	bawl
break	fair
meet	fare

Autumn 2

Week beginning: 03.11.25	
Rule: Homophones and near homophones	
here	mane
hear	mail
heel	male
heal	knot
main	not

Week beginning: 10.11.25	
Rule: Words with the -ly suffix (no change to root word)	
kindly	strongly
quickly	bravely
safely	secretly
rudely	finally
sweetly	usually

Week beginning: 17.11.25	
Rule: Words with -ly suffix (root word ends in 'y')	
happily	greedily
angrily	messily
lazily	wearily
easily	cheekily
busily	clumsily

Week beginning: 24.11.25	
Rule: Words with -ly suffix (root word ends in 'le')	
gently	terribly
simply	possibly
humbly	incredibly
nobly	comfortably
horribly	probably

Week beginning: 01.12.25	
Rule: Words with -ly suffix (root word ends in 'ic' or 'al')	
basically	comically
frantically	actually
dramatically	accidentally
magically	occasionally
tragically	eventually

Week beginning: 08.12.25	
Rule: Words with -ly suffix (exceptions to the rules)	
truly	publicly
duly	dryly
wholly	slyly
fully	shyly
daily	coily

Spring 1

Week beginning: 12.01.26	
Rule: Statutory Spelling Words	
believe	continue
appear	arrive
often	women
group	describe
breath	height

Week beginning: 19.01.26	
Rule: Words with short /i/ sound spelt with 'y'	
myth	hymn
gym	system
Egypt	symbol
pyramid	lyric
mystery	typical

Week beginning: 26.01.26	
Rule: Adding suffixes -er -ed -ing to words (not doubling final consonant)	
gardener	offered
gardening	focused
limited	focusing
limiting	shivered
offering	shivering

Week beginning: 02.02.26	
Rule: Adding suffixes -er -ed -en -ing (doubling final consonant)	
forgetting	preferring
forgotten	occurred
beginning	occurring
beginner	forbidden
preferred	committed

Week beginning: 09.02.26	
Rule: Creating negative meanings using prefix mis-	
misspell	misprint
mislead	misuse
mistreat	misplace
misbehave	misheard
mistrust	misread

Spring 2

Week beginning: 23.02.26	
Rule: Creating negative meanings using prefix dis-	
dislike	dishonest
disobey	disallow
discolour	disbelieve
discover	disapprove
disappear	discontinue

Week beginning: 02.03.26	
Rule: Homophones and near homophones	
grate	plane
great	peace
grown	piece
groan	rain
plain	reign

Week beginning: 09.03.26	
Rule: Adding prefix bi- (meaning 'two' or 'twice') and adding the prefix re- (meaning 'again' or 'back')	
bicycle	redecorate
bilingual	reapply
biannual	repay
binocular	rebuild
reappear	return

Week beginning: 16.03.26	
Rule: Words ending in /g/ sound spelt 'gue' and the /k/ sound spelt 'que'	
league	unique
plague	antique
rogue	mosque
vague	cheque
fatigue	technique

Week beginning: 23.03.26	
Rule: Words with /sh/ sound spelt 'ch'	
chef	ricochet
chalet	parachute
machine	moustache
brochure	pistachio
crochet	chute

Summer 1

Week beginning: 20.04.26	
Statutory Spelling Words	
address	breathe
busy	strange
business	complete
heart	extreme
fruit	forwards

Week beginning: 27.04.26	
Rule: Words ending in -ary	
library	summary
February	primary
dictionary	secondary
boundary	ordinary
salary	necessary

Week beginning: 04.05.26	
Rule: Words with a short /u/ sound spelt with 'o'	
woman	another
wonder	shovel
month	above
govern	Monday
brother	discover

Week beginning: 11.05.26	
Rule: Words with a short /u/ sound spelt 'ou'	
enough	country
young	courage
touch	rough
double	tough
trouble	cousin

Week beginning: 18.05.26	
Rule: Word families showing how words are related in form and meaning.	
scope	inspect
telescope	spectator
microscope	respect
horoscope	perspective
periscope	spectacles

Summer 2

Week beginning: 01.06.26	
Rule: Word families showing how words are related in form and meaning.	
instruct	unit
structure	union
construction	united
instruction	universe
instructor	university

Week beginning: 08.06.26	
Rule: Homophones and near homophones	
scent	road
sent	steel
vain	steal
vein	waist
rode	waste

Week beginning: 15.06.26	
Rule: Words ending in suffix -al	
natural	national
occasional	capital
actual	vocal
accidental	sensational
medical	personal

Week beginning: 22.06.26	
Rule: Words ending with /zhuh/ sound spelt 'sure'	
treasure	leisure
measure	exposure
pleasure	pressure
enclosure	composure
closure	measured

Week beginning: 29.06.26	
Rule: Words ending with /chuh/ sound spelt 'ture'	
creature	culture
picture	moisture
nature	future
furniture	gesture
capture	structure

Week beginning: 06.07.26	
Rule: Words ending with /chuh/ sound spelt 'ture'	
lecture	puncture
literature	sculpture
fracture	signature
miniature	temperature
mixture	texture

Week beginning: 13.07.26	
Rule: Silent letters	
island	knock
answer	thumb
write	doubt
wrapper	half
knife	calm

Week beginning:

Rule: Silent letters

build	honest
guide	whirl
guard	gnome
wheat	gnaw
whale	surprise