

Year 5 Year Spelling Programme 2026

Autumn 1

Week	Spelling rule / focus	Spellings
1	Review and commonly misspelt words	because, different, important, knowledge, possible, probably, remember, separate, straight, surprise
2	Endings sounding /shus/ spelt -cious	vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious, spacious, gracious, ferocious, atrocious
3	Endings sounding /shus/ spelt -tious	ambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious, contentious, superstitious, pretentious, scrumptious, repetitious
4	Words ending -cial and -tial	official, special, social, crucial, financial, partial, essential, initial, potential, substantial
5	Words ending -ant, -ance and -ancy	observant, expectant, hesitant, tolerant, relevant, observance, tolerance, hesitancy, relevancy, expectancy
6	Statutory words	accommodate, accompany, according, achieve, aggressive, amateur, ancient, apparent, appreciate, attached

Autumn 2

Week	Spelling rule / focus	Spellings
1	Words ending -ent, -ence and -ency	innocent, decent, frequent, confident, obedient, innocence, confidence, frequency, decency, emergency
2	Words ending -able and -ably	adorable, comfortable, considerable, dependable, enjoyable, reasonable, reliable, remarkable, changeable, noticeable
3	Words ending -ible and -ibly	possible, possibly, horrible, horribly, terrible, terribly, visible, visibly, sensible, sensibly
4	Adding suffixes to words ending -fer	referring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, preference, transferring, transferred, transference, reference
5	Hyphens to avoid ambiguity	co-operate, co-ordinate, co-own, re-enter, re-elect, re-educate, re-examine, re-evaluate, co-author, co-exist
6	Statutory words	available, average, awkward, bargain, bruise, category, cemetery, committee, communicate, community

Spring 1

Week	Spelling rule / focus	Spellings
1	Words containing the letter string ough	ought, bought, thought, brought, fought, rough, tough, enough, cough, though
2	Words with silent letters	doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight, wreckage, knowledge, answer, autumn
3	Words with 'ei' after c	ceiling, conceive, deceive, perceive, receive, receipt, conceit, deceit, receiver, perceiver
4	Homophones and near-homophones	advice, advise, device, devise, licence, license, practice, practise, prophecy, prophesy
5	Statutory words	competition, conscience, conscious, controversy, convenience, correspond, criticise, curiosity, definite, desperate

Spring 2

Week	Spelling rule / focus	Spellings
1	Homophones: meaning and word class	aisle, isle, aloud, allowed, affect, effect, altar, alter, ascent, assent
2	More homophones and commonly confused words	bridal, bridle, cereal, serial, compliment, complement, descent, dissent, draft, draught
3	Prefixes and changes in meaning	deactivate, defrost, overreact, overconfident, underestimate, underdeveloped, interrelated, substandard, superhuman, misinterpret
4	Word families and morphology	sign, signature, design, signal, define, definition, definite, infinite, compete, competition
5	Statutory words	determined, develop, dictionary, disastrous, embarrass, environment, equipment, especially, exaggerate, excellent

Summer 1

Week	Spelling rule / focus	Spellings
1	Choosing -ance or -ence	assistance, attendance, distance, importance, performance, existence, obedience, patience, preference, difference
2	Consolidating -cial and -tial	commercial, controversial, facial, glacial, provincial, confidential, essential, influential, residential, substantial
3	Homophones in context	farther, father, guessed, guest, heard, herd, led, lead, morning, mourning
4	Prefixes and root words	illegal, illogical, immature, impatient, imperfect, irregular, irrelevant, inactive, incorrect, invisible
5	Statutory words	existence, explanation, familiar, foreign, forty, frequently, government, guarantee, harass, hindrance

Summer 2

Week	Spelling rule / focus	Spellings
1	Consolidating -able and -ible	applicable, considerable, identifiable, justifiable, reliable, edible, flexible, responsible, reversible, visible
2	Unusual and challenging letter patterns	queue, rhythm, yacht, vehicle, stomach, language, foreign, guarantee, leisure, soldier
3	Homophones and tricky pairs	principal, principle, profit, prophet, stationary, stationery, steal, steel, wary, weary
4	Statutory words	identity, immediate, immediately, individual, interfere, interrupt, language, leisure, lightning, marvellous
5	Final consolidation: challenging words	mischievous, muscle, necessary, neighbour, nuisance, occupy, occur, opportunity, parliament, persuade

Spelling Rules

-cious / -tious: The /shus/ ending may be spelt -cious or -tious. Link words to their roots and word families where possible.

-cial / -tial: -cial is common after a vowel and -tial after a consonant, although pupils also need to learn exceptions.

-ant/-ance/-ancy and -ent/-ence/-ency: Use related words and pronunciation to support the choice of ending: observant → observation; confident → confidence.

-able / -ible: -able is more common and often attaches to a recognisable complete root word. -ible is less predictable and should be taught through word families.

-fer: Double the r when the -fer syllable remains stressed before the suffix: prefer → preferred. Do not double it when stress changes: prefer → preference.

ough: The same letter string represents several sounds. Group words by pronunciation and compare them directly.

Silent letters: Encourage pupils to use morphology, word origins and memorable pronunciation strategies to retain silent letters.

Hyphens: A hyphen may clarify meaning or pronunciation, especially with some prefixes such as co- and re-.

Homophones: Teach spelling through meaning and grammatical context, not simply by sound.

Morphology: Identify roots, prefixes and suffixes. Connecting words in families supports both spelling and vocabulary development.