

Y2 Spelling Rules

| Statutory requirements | Rules and guidance (non-statutory) | Example words (non-statutory) |
|---|---|--|
| The /dʒ/ sound spelt as ge and dge at the end of words, and sometimes spelt as g elsewhere in words before e, i and y | <p>The letter j is never used for the /dʒ/ sound at the end of English words.</p> <p>At the end of a word, the /dʒ/ sound is spelt -dge straight after the /æ/, /ɛ/, /ɪ/, /ɒ/, /ʌ/ and /ʊ/ sounds (sometimes called 'short' vowels).</p> <p>After all other sounds, whether vowels or consonants, the /dʒ/ sound is spelt as -ge at the end of a word.</p> <p>In other positions in words, the /dʒ/ sound is often (but not always) spelt as g before e, i, and y. The /dʒ/ sound is always spelt as j before a, o and u.</p> | <p>badge, edge, bridge, dodge, fudge</p> <p>age, huge, change, charge, bulge, village</p> <p>gem, giant, magic, giraffe, energy jacket, jar, jog, join, adjust</p> |
| The /s/ sound spelt c before e, i and y | | race, ice, cell, city, fancy |
| The /n/ sound spelt kn and (less often) gn at the beginning of words | The 'k' and 'g' at the beginning of these words was sounded hundreds of years ago. | knock, know, knee, gnat, gnaw |
| The /r/ sound spelt wr at the beginning of words | This spelling probably also reflects an old pronunciation. | write, written, wrote, wrong, wrap |
| The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt -le at the end of words | The -le spelling is the most common spelling for this sound at the end of words. | table, apple, bottle, little, middle |

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| The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt -el at the end of words | The -el spelling is much less common than -le . The -el spelling is used after m, n, r, s, v, w and more often than not after s . | camel, tunnel, squirrel, travel, towel, tinsel |
| The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt -al at the end of words | Not many nouns end in -al , but many adjectives do. | metal, pedal, capital, hospital, animal |
| Words ending -il | There are not many of these words. | pencil, fossil, nostril |
| The /aɪ/ sound spelt -y at the end of words | This is by far the most common spelling for this sound at the end of words. | cry, fly, dry, try, reply, July |
| Adding -es to nouns and verbs ending in -y | The y is changed to i before -es is added. | flies, tries, replies, copies, babies, carries |
| Adding -ed, -ing, -er and -est to a root word ending in -y with a consonant before it | The y is changed to i before -ed, -er and -est are added, but not before -ing as this would result in ii . The only ordinary words with ii are <i>skiing</i> and <i>taxiing</i> . | copied, copier, happier, happiest, cried, replied ...but copying, crying, replying |
| Adding the endings -ing, -ed, -er, -est and -y to words ending in -e with a consonant before it | The -e at the end of the root word is dropped before -ing, -ed, -er, -est, -y or any other suffix beginning with a vowel letter is added. Exception: <i>being</i> . | hiking, hiked, hiker, nicer, nicest, shiny |
| Adding -ing, -ed, -er, -est and -y to words of one syllable ending in a single consonant letter after a single vowel letter | The last consonant letter of the root word is doubled to keep the /æ/, /ɛ/, /ɪ/, /ɒ/ and /ʌ/ sound (i.e. to keep the vowel 'short'). Exception: The letter 'x' is never doubled: <i>mixing, mixed, boxer, sixes</i> . | patting, patted, humming, hummed, dropping, dropped, sadder, saddest, fatter, fattest, runner, runny |
| The /ɔ:/ sound spelt a before l and ll | The /ɔ:/ sound ('or') is usually spelt as a before l and ll . | all, ball, call, walk, talk, always |
| The /ʌ/ sound spelt o | | other, mother, brother, nothing, Monday |

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| The /i:/ sound spell -ey | The plural of these words is formed by the addition of -s (<i>donkeys, monkeys, etc.</i>). | key, donkey, monkey, chimney, valley |
| The /ɒ/ sound spell a after w and qu | a is the most common spelling for the /ɒ/ ('hɒt') sound after w and qu . | want, watch, wander, quantity, squash |
| The /ɜ:/ sound spell or after w | There are not many of these words. | word, work, worm, world, worth |
| The /ɔ:/ sound spell ar after w | There are not many of these words. | war, warm, towards |
| The /y/ sound spell s | | television, treasure, usual |
| The suffixes -ment, -ness, -ful, -less and -ly | If a suffix starts with a consonant letter, it is added straight on to most root words without any change to the last letter of those words. Exceptions: (1) <i>argument</i> (2) root words ending in -y with a consonant before it but only if the root word has more than one syllable. | enjoyment, sadness, careful, playful, hopeless, plainness (plain + ness), badly merriment, happiness, plentiful, penniless, happily |
| Contractions | In contractions, the apostrophe shows where a letter or letters would be if the words were written in full (e.g. <i>can't</i> – <i>cannot</i>). <i>It's</i> means <i>it is</i> (e.g. <i>It's</i> raining) or sometimes <i>it has</i> (e.g. <i>It's</i> been raining), but <i>it's</i> is never used for the possessive. | can't, didn't, hasn't, couldn't, it's, I'll |
| The possessive apostrophe (singular nouns) | | Megan's, Ravi's, the girl's, the child's, the man's |
| Words ending in -tion | | station, fiction, motion, national, section |

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| Homophones and near-homophones | It is important to know the difference in meaning between homophones. | there/their/they're, here/hear, quite/quiet, see/sea, bare/bear, one/won, sun/son, to/too/two, be/bee, blue/blew, night/knight |
| Common exception words | Some words are exceptions in some accents but not in others – e.g. <i>past, last, fast, path</i> and <i>bath</i> are not exceptions in accents where the a in these words is pronounced /æ/, as in <i>cat</i> . <i>Great, break</i> and <i>steak</i> are the only common words where the /eɪ/ sound is spelled ea . | door, 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 – and/or others according to programme used. Note: 'children' is not an exception to what has been taught so far but is included because of its relationship with 'child'. |