

Year 2 Spelling Rules

Here is a guide to the spelling rules which children in Year 2 are expected to know. All the rules have some exceptions! When practising a spelling rule how many exceptions can you find?

Sounds

Spelling rule	Example words
The 'j' sound at the beginning/middle of words is usually spelt as <i>g</i> in words when it comes before e,i and y	Gem, giant magic, giraffe, energy
The 'j' sound at the end of words is spelt <i>ge</i> directly after a long vowel or <i>dge</i> if it comes directly after a short vowel (without a consonant in-between)	Large, age, huge, bulge, village ... or fridge, badge, edge, dodge, fudge
The 'ch' sound at the end of words is spelt <i>tch</i> if it comes directly after a short vowel (without a consonant in-between)	Match, clutch, patch, scotch, itch, fetch
The 's' sound is usually spelt as <i>c</i> before e, i and y	Race, ice, cell, city, fancy
<i>le</i> is the most common spelling of the 'l' sound at the end of words.	Little, table, apple, bottle, middle, goggle, gentle
The 'l' sound is often spelled <i>el</i> after m, n, r, s, v, and w	Camel, tunnel, squirrel, travel, towel, tinsel
The 'ie' sound at the end of words is usually spelt as <i>y</i>	Cry, fly, dry, try, reply, July
The 'o' sound is spelt <i>a</i> after w or qu	Want, watch, wander, squash, quantity.

Suffixes

Children need to know how to add the suffixes 'ed', 'ing', 'es', 'er', 'est', 'ness', 'ful', 'ment', and 'ly' to root words.

Spelling rule	Example words
When the root word ends in <i>y</i> , change <i>y</i> to an <i>i</i> then add the suffix... EXCEPT <i>ing</i> (as it would cause a double <i>i</i>) or if the <i>y</i> is part of a diagraph such as <i>oy</i> in <i>enjoy</i>)	Happier, happiness, copied, copier, replied... but not copying, replying, enjoyed
When the root word ends in an <i>e</i> , drop the <i>e</i> then add the suffix	Hiking, hiked, hiker, nicer, nicest, blaming
When the root word has a short vowel followed by a single consonant, double the consonant and add the suffix.	Patting, patted, hotter, humming, hummed, dropping, dropped, sadder, saddest,

Other

Spelling rule	Example words
In contractions, the apostrophe shows the missing letter	I'm, can't, didn't, hasn't, won't, I'll
Apostrophes also show possession	Megan's, the man's, people's
Words ending in <i>tion</i>	Station, motion, fiction, nation
Homophones- some words sound the same but are spelt differently and have different meanings	There/their/they're, here/hear, see/sea, one/won, to/too/two

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