

spelling	Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	examples
dge	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	At the end of a word, the /dʒ/ sound is spelt –dge straight after the /æ/, /ɛ/, /ɪ/, /ɒ/, /ʊ/ and /ʌ/ sounds (sometimes called ‘short’ vowels).	badge badger edge hedge ledge sledge bridge ridge lodger budget fudge judge nudge trudge sludge smudge
dge: ge		After all other sounds, whether vowels or consonants, the /dʒ/ sound is spelt as –ge at the end of a word.	age cage page sage damage change bulge village strange
dge: g		In other positions in words, the /dʒ/ sound is often (but not always) spelt as g before e, i, and y.	gem giant magic giraffe energy ginger general genius gentle geometry gym danger angel digest emergency energy engineer energy engineer giant imagine intelligent legend register stranger tragic
dge: j		The letter j is never used for the /dʒ/ (“dge”) sound at the end of English words.	jacket jar jog join adjust joke juggle enjoy joint jerseys jockeys journeys injuries jellies banjos jewellery journalist January subject
s: c	The /s/ sound spelt c before e, i and y		race ice cell city fancy dice ice nice price rice slice spice twice rejoice cinema circle circuit circular circus citizen city cease cellar cement cent centipede centre centurion century certain cycle cyclist cyclone cygnet cymbals face palace place race space surface trace dice ice nice price rice slice spice twice chance dance pencil decide recite
n: kn	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.	knee kneel knew knickers knight knit knives knob knock knot know knuckle knife
n: gn			gnarled gnash gnat gnaw gnomes sign
r: wr	The /r/ sound spelt wr at the beginning of words	This spelling probably also reflects an old pronunciation	wrap wrapper wreck wrestle wriggle wrinkle wrist write wrong wriggly wrinkly
l: le	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.	bubble scribble cuddle middle muddle puddle paddle riddle saddle juggle smuggle apple battle bottle kettle little dazzle drizzle puzzle bible bundle candle dawdle handle needle noodle poodle chuckle prickle tickle uncle angle ankle grumble able cable fable sable table sample simple
l: el	/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 marvel excel rebel quarrel angel label cancel
l: al	The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt –al at the end of words	Not many nouns end in –al, but many adjectives do.	accidental comical critical electrical eventual exceptional fatal final individual logical magical medical musical national natural normal occasional original ornamental personal practical regional sensational several traditional physical racial social special official financial commercial artificial torrential confidential essential influential initial partial circumstantial illogical irrational illegal impartial immoral immortal unusual impractical al racial social special physical official financial exceptional artificial commercial torrential confidential essential influential initial partial

I: il	Words ending –il	There are not many of these words	spoil pencil fossil nostril devil
igh: y end	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.	by cry dry fly fry my sky sly sty try apply deny rely reply supply
Plural y – ies Nouns	Adding –es to nouns and verbs ending in –y	The y is changed to i before –es is added.	armies berried babies centuries cities countries diaries dictionaries enemies fairies factories families hobbies injuries jellies ladies libraries lollies lorries memories arties photocopies ponies puppies
Plural y – ies			applies bullies cries denies fries lies relies replies qualities satisfies spies supplies tries carries hurries marries scurries tidies varies worries
y to ied	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 skiing and taxiing.	applied bullied cried denied fried lied relied replied qualified satisfied spied supplied tried carried hurried married scurried tidied varied worried
y to ier			angrier busier clumsier chillier cosier crazier dirtier dustier funnier happier healthier heavier hungrier lazier lonelier lovelier luckier merrier nastier noisier prettier rustier sillier tidier
y to iest			angriest busiest clumsiest chilliest cosiest craziest dirtiest dustiest funniest happiest healthiest heaviest hungriest laziest loneliest loveliest luckiest merriest nastiest noisiest prettiest rustiest silliest tidiest
y+ing			crying drying frying prying trying applying carrying denying hurrying marrying replying relying scurrying supplying tidying varying
e to ing	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. The exception is being. Exceptions: jokey smiley	closing driving hoping joking liking lining making naming poking saving scraping shaking sliding smiling smoking stroking taking timing tuning using waving bouncing calculating celebrating competing composing damaging dancing deciding decreasing exploring imagining including increasing measuring pausing preserving puncturing traipsing whistling wrestling wriggling writing
e to ed			amazed closed lined named saved smiled tuned used waved baked hoped joked liked shaped smoked fated hated mated stated disused grumbled surprised included juggled displeased replaced disabled misbehaved refused decoded stroked dawdled served
e to er			closer nicer driver hoper joker liker liner maker namer poker saver scraper shaker slider smiler smoker stoker taker timer tuner user waver
e to est			closest nicest
e to ey			smoky wave – wavy shake – shaky shine - shiny
Doubling Consonant	ing	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: mixing, mixed, boxer, sixes.	patting clapping cutting digging dragging dropping flapping getting grabbing hopping hugging humming letting planning running shopping skipping spinning stepping wetting winning slipping stopping
	ed		chatted chopped clapped dragged dripped dropped fitted grabbed hopped hugged patted permitted pinned planned popped rubbed skipped slapped slipped stepped stopped trapped wrapped
	er		fatter planner shredder winner spinner skipper swimmer beginner thinner fitter robber shopper chopper hopper runner drummer rubber cutter bigger hotter
	est		biggest thinnest fattest fittest hottest
	y		runny sunny funny

or: a	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 small tall wall stalk almighty almost alone along already also altogether always
u: o	The /ʌ/ sound spelt o		other mother brother nothing Monday monkey
plural ey	The /i:/ sound spelt –ey	The plural of these words is formed by the addition of –s (donkeys, monkeys, etc.).	trolley turkey valley donkey jersey jockey journey key monkey chimney abbey
o: a	The /ɒ/ sound spelt a after w and qu	a is the most common spelling for the /ɒ/ ('hot') sound after w and qu.	wad wallet wand wand wander want was wash wasp watch swab swallow swamp swan swap swat squabble quality quantity quarter squash qualified
er: a	The /ɜ:/ sound spelt or after w	There are not many of these words.	word work worm world worth earthworm
or: a	The /ɔ:/ sound spelt ar after w	There are not many of these words.	war warm towards
ment	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) argument (2) root words ending in –y with a consonant before it but only if the root word has more than one syllable. (3) root words ending in –e with an l before it changes to –ly.	achievement advertisement amusement arrangement employment encouragement enjoyment environment excitement government management movement ornament replacement statement
ness			braveness childishness darkness fairness foolishness kindness lateness suddenness wickedness willingness emptiness happiness heaviness hungriness laziness loneliness tidiness
ful			boastful careful faithful forgetful handful grateful harmful hateful helpful hopeful mouthful painful playful powerful spiteful thankful useful beautiful delightful doubtful fanciful pitiful plentiful resentful respectful sorrowful successful thoughtful truthful wonderful
less			ageless careless endless fearless helpless homeless hopeless lifeless painless powerless seedless shameless smokeless speechless thankless timeless useless colourless thoughtless
ly			blindly bravely correctly fairly hardly kindly lively lonely loudly proudly sadly shyly slightly slowly suddenly sweetly angrily clumsily easily happily heavily hungrily lazily luckily merrily noisily prettily readily speedily steadily wearily comfortably cuddly gently grumbly horribly miserably possibly probably simply sparkly suitably terribly visibly wriggly wrinkly
,	Contractions	In contractions, the apostrophe shows where a letter or letters would be if the words were written in full (e.g. can't – cannot). It's means it is (e.g. It's raining) or sometimes it has (e.g. It's been raining), but it's is never used for the possessive.	aren't can't couldn't didn't doesn't don't hadn't hasn't haven't he'd he'll he's I'd I'll I'm I've isn't it's let's mightn't mustn't shan't she'd she'll she's shouldn't that's there's they'd they'll they're they've we'd we're we've weren't what'll what're what's what've where's who'd who'll who're who's who've won't wouldn't you'd you'll you're you've
,	The possessive apostrophe (singular nouns)		Simon's coat Sarah's jumper the boy's toys the girl's friend the dog's bone the computer's mouse the car's engine the man's boat the woman's bike
-tion	Words ending in –tion		action addition addiction ambition attention competition condition devotion education fiction fraction information investigation multiplication

			prediction question reaction reflection relation station affection caution celebration circulation composition conversation conservation description direction examination exhibition indigestion precaution prescription promotion protection quotation sensation separation subtraction ventilation vibration refraction transaction
homo- phones	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 air- heir aisle- isle ante- -anti- eye- I bare- bear be- bee brake- break buy- by cell- sell cent- scent cereal- serial coarse- course complement- compliment dam- damn dear- deer die- dye fair- fare fir- fur flour- flower or- four hair- hare heal- heel hear- here him- hymn hole- whole hour- our idle- idol in- inn knight- night knot- not know- no made- maid mail- male meat- meet morning- mourning none- nun oar- or one- won pair- pear peace- piece plain- plane poor- pour pray- prey principal- principle profit- prophet real- reel right- write root- route sail- sale sea- see seam- seem sight- site sew- so shore- sure sole –soul some- sum son- sun stair- stare stationary- stationery steal- steel suite- sweet tail- tale their- there- they're to- too- two toe- tow waist- waste wait- weight way- weigh weak- week wear- where