

Spelling Skills Progression – Dearham Primary School

Reception: spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sound with letters.

Year 1:

1. The /f/, /v/, /s/, /z/ and /k/ sounds are usually spelt as ff, ll, ss, zz and ck if they come straight after a single vowel letter in short words.
2. The /k/ sound spelled 'k' before e, l and y. The /nk/ sound found at the end of words usually comes after a vowel.
3. The -tch This sound is usually spelled as 'tch' when it comes after a single vowel letter.
4. Some words end with an /e/ sound spelled 'y'. English words hardly ever end with the letter 'v', so if a word ends with a /v/ sound, the letter 'e' usually needs to be added after the 'v'.
5. Adding s and es to words (plurals) If the ending sounds like /s/ or /z/, it is spelled as -s. If it forms an extra syllable, then it is spelled as -es.
6. Adding the suffixes -ing and -ed to verbs. If the verb ends in two consonant letters (the same or different), the ending is simply added on.
7. Adding -er, -est and un- to words.
8. Words of more than one syllable often have an unstressed syllable in which the vowel sound is unclear. Sometimes words can be joined together to form compound words.
9. The /ar/ consonant digraph. This digraph may be used at the beginning, middle or end of words.
10. Long vowel sound /e/ spelled ee. The letters 'ee' make a long vowel sound like in the word see. This is a common way of spelling the sound and is found in the middle of words and sometimes at the end.
11. The vowel digraph er. In these words the sound is stressed
12. The vowel digraph er. In these words the sound is unstressed and found at the end of words.
13. The /ai/ and /oi/ digraphs. These digraphs are virtually never used at the end of words in English.
14. The long vowel sound /oo/ as in Zoo. Very few words start or end with /oo/
15. The short vowel sound 'oo' as in foot. *Standard English pronunciation has been used here. In some parts of England the -ook words may have a longer sound.
16. The long vowel sound /i/ spelled 'igh.' This is usually found in the middle of words but sometimes at the end of words too.
17. The /ar/ sound. The vowel digraph 'or' and trigraph 'ore.' It is more likely that when at the end of a word then it will be spelled with an 'e.'
18. The digraphs ir and ur. Often found in the middle of words and occasionally at the beginning of words.
19. The 'oa' digraph can come at the beginning or in the middle of words but very rarely at the end. The 'oe' digraph can be sometimes found at the end of words.
20. Words with 'ph' or 'wh' spellings.
21. The ay and oy digraphs. These digraphs are used for those sounds at the ends of words and syllables.
22. The long vowel sound /a/ spelled with the split digraph a-e
23. The long vowel sound /e/ spelled with the split digraph e-e.
24. The long vowel sound /i/ spelled with a split digraph i-e.
25. The long vowel sound /o/ spelled with the split digraph o_e.
26. The long vowel /oo/ and /yoo/ sounds spelled as u-e. These sounds are usually found in the middle or at the end of words.
27. The long vowel sound /e/ spelled ea. Another common spelling of the sound which is often found in the middle and end of words.
28. The short vowel sound /e/ spelled ea.
29. The 'ou' digraph. This digraph can be found at the beginning and in the middle of words. The only common English word ending in 'ou' is you.
30. The digraph 'ie' making the /ai / sound as in pie.
31. The digraph 'ie' making the /ee/ sound.
32. The /ar/ sound spelled with the digraph aw or au. If it is at the end of a word it is more likely to be spelled with an aw and at the beginning of a word with au.
33. The 'ow' digraph. This digraph can make two different sounds like in 'cow' or in 'blow.'
34. The 'oo' and 'yoo' sounds can be spelled as u-e, ue and ew. If words end in the /oo/ sound, then it is likely that they will be spelled ew or ue.
35. The trigraphs 'air' and 'ear'. These spellings are commonly found in the middle or at the end of words but can sometimes be used at the beginning of words too.
36. The /er/ sound spelled with 'ear' or 'are'

Year 1 continued...

Common exception words

a	the	do	to	today
of	said	says	are	were
was	is	his	has	I
you	your	they	be	he
me	she	we	no	go
so	by	my	here	there
where	love	come	some	one
once	ask	friend	school	put
push	pull	full	house	our

Year 2:

1. The /j/ sound spelled -dge at the end of words. This spelling is used after the short vowel sounds.
2. The /j/ sound spelled -ge at the end of words. This spelling comes after all sounds other than the 'short vowels.'
3. The /j/ sound spelled with a g.
4. The /s/ sound spelled c before e, i and y.
5. The /n/ sound spelled kn and an at the beginning of words.
6. Challenge Words
7. The /r/ sound spelled 'wr' at the beginning of words.
8. The /l/ or /ul/ sound spelled '-le' at the end of words.
9. The /l/ or /ul/ sound spelled '-el' at the end of words. This spelling is used after m, n, r, s, v, w and commonly s.
10. The /l/ or /ul/ sound spelled '-al' at the end of words.
11. Words ending in '-il'
12. Challenge Words
13. The long vowel 'i' spelled with a y at the end of words.
14. Adding '-es' to nouns and verbs ending in 'y.'
15. Adding '-ed' to words ending in y. The y is changed to an i.
16. Adding '-er' to words ending in y. The y is changed to an i.
17. Adding 'ing' to words ending in 'e' with a consonant before it.
18. Challenge Words
19. Adding 'er' to words ending in 'e' with a consonant before it.
20. Adding '-ing' to words of one syllable. The last letter is doubled to keep the short vowel sound.
21. Adding '-ed' to words of one syllable. The last letter is doubled to keep the short vowel sound.
22. The 'or' sound spelled 'a' before ll and ll.
23. The short vowel sound 'o.'
24. Challenge Words
25. The /ee/ sound spelled '-ey'
26. Words with the spelling 'a' after w and qu.
27. The /er/ and /or/ sound spelled with or or ar.
28. The /z/ sound spelled s.
29. The suffixes '-ment' and '-ness'
30. The suffixes '-ful' and '-less' If a suffix starts with a consonant letter. It is added straight onto most root words.
31. These words are homophones or near homophones. They have the same pronunciation but different spellings and/or meanings
32. These words are homophones or near homophones. They have the same pronunciation but different spellings and/or meanings.
33. Words ending in '-tion.'
34. Contractions – the apostrophe shows where a letter or letters would be if the words were written in full.
35. The possessive apostrophe (singular)
36. Challenge Words

Year 2 continued...

Common exception words

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	

Year 3

1. The /ow/ sound spelled 'ou.' Found often in the middle of words, sometimes at the beginning and very rarely at the end of words.
2. The /u/ sound spelled 'ou.' This digraph is only found in the middle of words.
3. Spelling Rule: The // sound spelled with a 'y.'
4. Words with endings that sound like /ze/ as in measure are always spelled with '-sure.'
5. Words with endings that sound like /ch/ is often spelled '-ture' unless the root word ends in (t)ch.
6. Challenge words
7. Words with the prefix 're-' 're-' means 'again' or 'back.'
8. The prefix 'dis-' which has a negative meaning. It often means 'does not' as in does not agree = disagree.
9. The prefix 'mis-' This is another prefix with negative meanings.
10. Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable. The consonant letter is not doubled if the syllable is unstressed.
11. Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable. If the last syllable of a word is stressed and ends with one consonant letter which has just one vowel letter before it, the final consonant letter is doubled.
12. Challenge words
13. The long vowel /a/ sound spelled 'ai'
14. The long /a/ vowel sound spelled 'ei.'
15. The long /a/ vowel sound spelled 'ey.'
16. Adding the suffix -ly. Adding the -ly suffix to an adjective turns it into an adverb.
17. Homophones – words which have the same pronunciation but different meanings and/or spellings.
18. Challenge Words
19. The // sound spelled '-al' at the end of words.
20. The // sound spelled '-le' at the end of words.
21. Adding the suffix '-ly' when the root word ends in '-le' then the '-le' is changed to '-ly.'
22. Adding the suffix '-ally' which is used instead of '-ly' when the root word ends in '-ic.'
23. Adding the suffix -ly. Words which do not follow the rules.
24. Challenge Words
25. Words ending in '-er' when the root word ends in (t)ch.
26. Words with the /k/ sound spelled 'ch.' These words have their origins in the Greek language.
27. Words ending with the /g/ sound spelled '-gue' and the /k/ sound spelled '-que.' These words are French in origin.
28. Words with the /s/ sound spelled 'sc' which is Latin in its origin.
29. Homophones: Words which have the same pronunciation but different meanings and/or spellings.
30. Challenge Words
31. The suffix '-sion' pronounced /ʒən/
32. Revision – spelling rules we have learned in Stage 3.
33. Revision – spelling rules we have learned in Stage 3.
34. Revision – spelling rules we have learned in Stage 3.
35. Revision – spelling rules we have learned in Stage 3.
36. Revision – spelling rules we have learned in Stage 3.

Year 4:

1. These words are homophones or near homophones. They have the same pronunciation but different spellings and/or meanings.
2. The prefix 'in-' can mean both 'not' and 'in'/'into.' In these spellings the prefix 'in-' means 'not.'
3. Before a root word starting with l, the 'in-' prefix becomes 'il-'. Before a root word starting with r the prefix 'in-' becomes 'ir-'
4. The prefix 'sub-' which means under or below.
5. The prefix 'inter-' means between, amongst or during.
6. Challenge Words
7. The suffix '-ation' is added to verbs to form nouns.
8. The suffix '-ation' is added to verbs to form nouns.
9. Adding -ly to adverbs. Remembering words ending in '-y' become '-ily' and words ending in '-le' become '-ly.'
10. Adding '-ly' to to turn an adjective into an adverb when the final letter is 'l'
11. Word with the 'sh' sound spelled ch. These words are French in origin.
12. Challenge Words
13. Adding the suffix '-ion.' When the root word ends in 'd,' 'de' or 'se' then the suffix '-ion' needs to be '-sion.'
14. Adding the suffix '-ous.' Sometimes the root word is obvious and the usual rules apply for adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters. Sometimes there is no obvious root word though.
15. The suffix '-ous.' The final 'e' of the root word must be kept if the sound of 'g' is to be kept.
16. The 'ee' sound spelled with an 'i.'
17. The suffix '-ous.' If there is an 'ee' sound before the '-ous' ending, it is usually spelled as i, but a few words have e.
18. Challenge Words
19. The 'au' digraph
20. The suffix '-ion' when the root word ends in 't' or 'te' then the suffix becomes '-tion.'
21. The suffix '-ion' becomes '-ssion' when the root word ends in 'ss' or 'mit.'
22. The suffix '-cian' used instead of '-sion' when the root word ends in 'c' or 'cs'
23. Adding '-ly' to create adverbs of manner. These adverbs describe how the verb is occurring.
24. Challenge Words
25. Homophones – words which have the same pronunciation but different meanings and/or spellings.
26. The /s/ sound spelled c before 'i' and 'e'.
27. Some words have similar spellings, root words and meanings. We call these word families. 'sol word family' and 'real word family'
28. Some words have similar spellings, root words and meanings. We call these word families. 'phon word family' and 'sign word family'
29. Prefixes – 'super-' 'anti' and 'auto.'
30. The prefix bi- meaning two.
31. Challenge Words
32. Plural possessive apostrophes.
33. Revision – spelling rules we have learned in Stage 4.
34. Revision – spelling rules we have learned in Stage 4.
35. Revision – spelling rules we have learned in Stage 4.
36. Revision – spelling rules we have learned in Stage 4.

Year 5:

1. Spelling Rules: Words ending in '-ious.'
2. Spelling Rules: Words ending in '-cious.' If the root word ends in -ce the sound is usually spelled '-cious.'
3. Spelling Rules: Ending '-cial' and '-tial.' After a vowel '-cial' is most common and '-tial' after a consonant. But there are many exceptions.
4. Spelling Rules: Ending '-cial' and '-tial.' After a vowel '-cial' is most common and '-tial' after a consonant. But there are many exceptions.
5. Spelling Rules: Ending '-cial' and '-tial.' After a vowel '-cial' is most common and '-tial' after a consonant. But there are many exceptions.
6. Challenge words
7. Spelling Rules: Words ending in '-ant.' '-ant' is used if there is an 'a' or 'ay' sound in the right place.
8. Spelling Rules: Words ending in '-ance.' '-ance' is used if there is an 'a' or 'ay' sound in the right place.
9. Spelling Rules: Use -ent and -ence after soft c (/s/ sound), soft g (/j/ sound) and qu. There are many exceptions to this rule.
10. Spelling Rules: Words ending in '-able' and '-ible.' '-able' is used where there is a related word ending '-ation.'
11. Spelling Rules: Words ending in '-ably' and '-ibly.' The '-able' ending is usually but not always used if a complete root word can be heard before it. 'y' endings comply with previously learned rules and are replaced with 'i' as in rely > reliably
12. Challenge Words
13. Spelling Rules: Words ending in '-able.' If this is being added to a root word ending in -ce or -ge then the e after the c or g is kept otherwise they would be said with their hard sounds as in cap and gap.
14. Spelling Rules: Adverbs of time (temporal adverbs) these are words to develop chronology in writing.
15. Spelling Rules: Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in -fer. The r is doubled if the -fer is still stressed when the ending is added. If the -fer is not stressed then the r isn't doubled.
16. Spelling Rules: Words with 'silent' letters at the start.
17. Spelling Rules: Words with 'silent' letters (i.e. letters whose presence cannot be predicted from the pronunciation of the word)
18. Challenge Words
19. Spelling Rules: Words spelled with 'ie' after c.
20. Spelling Rules: Words with the 'ee' sound spelled 'ei' after c. The 'i' before e except after 'c' rule applies to words where the sound spelled by 'ei' is /ee/. However there are exceptions like those in the spellings.
21. Spelling Rules: Words containing the letter string 'ough' where the sound is /aw/.
22. Spelling Rules: Words containing the letter string 'ough' where the sound is /o/ as in boat or 'ow' as in cow.
23. Spelling Rules: Adverbs of possibility. These words show the possibility that something has of occurring.
24. Challenge Words
25. Spelling Rules: These words are homophones or near homophones. They have the same pronunciation but different spellings and/or meanings.
26. Spelling Rules: These words are homophones or near homophones. They have the same pronunciation but different spellings and/or meanings.
27. Spelling Rules: These words are homophones or near homophones. They have the same pronunciation but different spellings and/or meanings.
28. Spelling Rules: These words are homophones or near homophones. They have the same pronunciation but different spellings and/or meanings.
29. Spelling Rules: These words are homophones or near homophones. They have the same pronunciation but different spellings and/or meanings.
30. Challenge Words
31. Spelling Rules: Hyphens can be used to join a prefix to a root word, especially if the prefix ends in a vowel letter and the root word also begins with one.
32. Revision: Year 5 words
33. Revision: Year 5 words
34. Revision: Year 5 words
35. Revision: Year 5 words
36. Revision: Year 5 words

Year 6:

1. Challenge Words
2. Challenge Words
3. Challenge Words
4. Challenge Words
5. Challenge Words
6. Challenge Words
7. Challenge Words
8. Challenge Words
9. Challenge Words
10. Challenge Words
11. Spelling Rules: Words with the short vowel sound /i/ spelled y
12. Spelling Rules: Words with the long vowel sound /i/ spelled with a y.
13. Spelling Rules: Adding the prefix '-over' to verbs.
14. Spelling Rules: Convert nouns or verbs into adjectives using suffix '-ful.'
15. Spelling Rules: Words which can be nouns and verbs.
16. Spelling Rules: Words with an /o/ sound spelled 'ou' or 'ow.'
17. Spelling Rules: Words with a 'soft c' spelled /ce/.
18. Spelling Rules: Prefix dis, un, over, im. Each have a particular meaning: dis – reverse; un – not; over – above/more; im – opposite
19. Spelling Rules: Words with the /f/ sound spelled ph.
20. Spelling Rules: Words with origins in other countries
21. Spelling Rules: Words with unstressed vowel sounds.
22. Spelling Rules: Words with endings /shuhl/ after a vowel letter.
23. Spelling Rules: Words with endings /shuhl/ after a consonant letter.
24. Spelling Rules: Words with the common letter string 'acc' at the beginning of words.
25. Spelling Rules: Words ending in '-ably.'
26. Spelling Rules: Words ending in '-ible'
27. Spelling Rules: Adding the suffix '-ibly' to create an adverb.
28. Spelling Rules: Changing '-ent' to '-ence.'
29. Spelling Rules: -er, -or, -ar at the end of words.
30. Spelling Rules: Adverbs synonymous with determination.
31. Spelling Rules: Adjectives to describe settings
32. Spelling Rules: Vocabulary to describe feelings.
33. Spelling Rules: Adjectives to describe character
34. Grammar Vocabulary
35. Grammar Vocabulary
36. Mathematical Vocabulary