

Year 3 & 4 Spelling Rules



Rule	Examples
Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words of more than one syllable	forgetting, forgotten, beginning, beginner, prefer, preferred gardening, gardener, limiting, limited, limitation
The sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words	myth, gym, Egypt, pyramid, mystery
The sound spelt ou	young, touch, double, trouble, country
More prefixes	dis-: disappoint, disagree, disobey mis-: misbehave, mislead, misspell in-: inactive, incorrect, illegal, illegible re-: redo, refresh, return, reappear, redecorate anti-: antiseptic, anti-clockwise, antisocial
The suffix –ation	information, adoration, sensation, preparation, admiration
The suffix –ly	sadly, completely, usually, finally, comically, happily, angrily, gently, simply, humbly, nobly, basically, frantically, dramatically
Words ending in –sure, -ture, -cher	measure, treasure, pleasure, enclosure creature, furniture, picture, nature, adventure teacher, catcher, richer, stretcher
Words ending in -sion	division, invasion, confusion, decision, collision, television
The suffix –ous	poisonous, dangerous, mountainous, famous, various tremendous, enormous, jealous humorous, glamorous, vigorous courageous, outrageous serious, obvious, curious hideous, spontaneous, courteous
Words ending in –tion, – sion, –ssion, –cian	invention, injection, action, hesitation, completion expression, discussion, confession, permission, admission
	expansion, extension, comprehension, tension musician, electrician, magician, politician, mathematician
Words with the sound spelt ch (Greek in origin)	scheme, chorus, chemist, echo, character
Words with the sound spelt ch (mostly French in origin)	chef, chalet, machine, brochure
Words ending with the sound spelt –gue and the sound spelt –que (French in origin)	league, tongue, antique, unique
Words with the sound spelt ei, eigh, or ey	vein, weigh, eight, neighbour, they, obey
Possessive apostrophe with plural words	girls', boys', babies', children's, men's, mice's
Homophones and near- homophones	accept/except, affect/effect, ball/bawl, berry/bury, brake/break, fair/fare, grate/great, groan/grown, here/hear, heel/heal/he'll, knot/not, mail/male, main/mane, meat/meet, medal/meddle, missed/mist, peace/piece, plain/plane, rain/rein/reign, scene/seen, weather/whether, whose/who's



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accident(ally) actual(ly) address answer appear arrive believe bicycle breath breathe build busy/business calendar caught centre century certain circle complete consider continue decide describe different difficult disappear early earth eight/eighth enough exercise experience experiment extreme famous favourite February forward(s)

fruit grammar group guard quide heard heart height history imagine increase important interest island knowledge learn length library material medicine mention minute natural naughty notice occasion(ally) often opposite ordinary particular peculiar perhaps popular position possess(ion) possible potatoes pressure

probably promise purpose quarter question recent regular reign remember sentence separate special straight strange strength suppose surprise therefore though/although thought through various weight woman/women