

sounds & syllables

the sensible spelling system

Tier 2 | Phase 1 |

Units 1 to 3

Apostrophes

1	not	can't won't is'n't	the word not is frequently contracted, and the apostrophe in words ending n't indicates a missing o
2	be	I'm he's she's it's where's you're they're we're	spellings are contracted when combining subjective pronouns and the present tense of the verb to be : am > 'm (I'm), are > 're (we're, you're, they're), and is > 's (he's, she's, it's) spellings are contracted when combining question words and is (who's, what's, why's, where's, when's how's) that is contracted when adding is (that's)
3	will	I'll we'll you'll	spellings are contracted when combining subjective pronouns and the auxiliary verbs will or shall (I'll, we'll, you'll, he'll, she'll, it'll, they'll) who + will or shall is contracted (who'll) that + will or shall is contracted (that'll)

Units 4 to 15

Alternate consonant spellings

4	/s/	house geese e clipse rice dance si lence	in year 2, move away from split spellings, and represent the final non-syllabic e as part of a consonant digraph (chase, dose, ice, place) se and ce are usually found at the end of words
5	/z/	please noise be cause haze sneeze a maze	se and ze are usually found at the end of words ze is rare in multi syllable words (a blaze, a maze, cap size)
6	/j/	charge plunge strange badge edge po ridge	ge and dge are usually found at the end of words ge usually follows the consonants n (fringe, plunge, whinge) and less commonly l (bilge, bulge, in dulge), and vowel digraphs (gouge, forge, large) dge usually follows a single vowel representing /a/ (badge, cadge), /e/ (edge, hedge), /i/ (bridge, fridge, po ridge), /o/ (dodge, lodge, stodge) and /u/ (budge, smudge, trudge)

sounds & syllables

the sensible spelling system

Tier 2 | Phase 2 |

7	/b/ /d/ /f/ /k/ /l/ /m/ /n/ /p/ /t/ /v/	ro b e bri b e war dro b e ri d e ma d e di vi d e kni f e sa f e wi l d li f e flu k e jo k e cu p ca k e ho l e sty l e mi ssi l e so m e ga m e vo lu m e go n e do n e en gi n e wi p e ty p e e sca p e whi t e ta s te ath le t e lo v e hiv e for gi v e	words ending in a final non-syllabic e in year 2, move away from split spellings, and represent the non-syllabic e as part of a consonant digraph a final non-syllabic e forms part of a consonant digraph, the common final e consonant digraphs being /b/ = be (cu b e, tri b e, mi cro b e), /d/ = de (slid e , cod e , in v ad e), /f/ = fe (li f e, stri f e, mid wi f e) /k/ = ke (bro k e, ta k e, a wa k e), /l/ = le (whal e , smil e , fe ma l e), /m/ = me (com e , tim e , per fu m e), /n/ = ne (con e , do n e, se ren e), /p/ = pe (swi p e, sha p e, te le sco p e), /t/ = te (kit e , wast e , pi rat e) and /v/ = ve (giv e , sav e , a rriv e)
8	/k/	sch o ol ch e mist e ch o	
9	/ng/	ban k blan ket thi n k fin ger an gry sin gle	n represents /ng/ before /k/ spelled k (dr in k, plank, an kle), and /g/ spelled g (hun gry, bin go, an gle) n represents /ng/ very rarely before /k/ spelled c (sanc tion) and ch (an chor)
10	/sh/	ac ti o n po ti o n sta ti o n	ti in words ending with tion ti is commonly followed by o + n , and is often found in the final syllable of multi syllable words
11	/uh l/	ta ble a pp l e bu bb l e	le represents two sounds, the schwa vowel /uh/ + /l/ le is usually found at the end of words
12	/n/	k ne el kn o ve kn o ckle gn o t gn o aw gn o ash	kn and gn are found at the start of words gn is found at the beginning of a small number of words (gn arl, gn ash, gn at, gn aw, gn ome)
13	/r/	w ri te w ro ng w ri ggle	wr is usually found at the start of words words beginning with wr usually have a meaning of 'twist' or 'turn'
14	/ch/	na t u re pic t u re sta t u e	/ch/ may be spelled t before ure (mix t u re, mois t u re, vul t u re) or u (cen t u ry, punc t u ate, ta ran t u la)
15	/zh/	mea s u re trea s u re ca s u al	/zh/ spelled s is found in a small number of common words s is always followed by /ue/ spelled u (ca s u al, u s u al, vi s u al) or /uh/ spelled with the as yet untaught ure (clo s u re, com po s u re, en clo s u re, ex po s u re, lei s u re, mea s u re, plea s u re, trea s u re)

Units 16 to 30

Alternate vowel spellings

16	/i/	my th lyn x sy rup	y is found in the middle of words
17	/u/	so u me lo o ve o ther co u ld sho u ld wo o ld	oul is rare and occurs in only three words (co u ld, sho u ld wo o ld)
18	/ee/	key mo ney va lley a li en a pri cot ta xi	ey is usually found at end of words i is commonly found in multi syllable words
19	/ae/	they grey o bey break great steak	ey is uncommon and is found at the end of words (f ey , grey, h ey , prey, the ey , whe ey , con v ey , o b ey , sur v ey) ea is rare and is found in three words (break, great, steak)

© Jason Wade Education Ltd, 2020

The content of this document may be reproduced free of charge by the purchaser for non-commercial use provided that the material is acknowledged as copyright of Jason Wade Education Ltd, and it is reproduced accurately including all logos of the copyright owner. The content may not be published online, used for any promotional or commercial purpose of the school and copies (including electronic copies) may not be distributed beyond the school, offered for sale, sold, hired or be shown to fee paying audiences.

sounds & syllables

the sensible spelling system

Tier 2 | Phase 3 |

20	/ie/	lie tie mag pie	ie is uncommon and is usually found at the end of single syllable words (die, lie, pie, tie, mag pie)
21	/oy/		no new spellings
22	/oe/ /ue/	dough al though	ough is rare and occurs at the end of syllables in only a few words (dough, dough nut, though, al though)
23		soup group cou gar fruit juice suit case to lose im prove	ou is almost always found in the middle of words (wound, youth, cou pon) and at the end of a word only once (you) ui is only found in the middle of words (bruise, cruise, re cruit)
24	/ar/	calm calf al mond	al is uncommon and is found in only a few words (balm, calf, calm, half, palm, qualm, al mond, be half, em balm) and never at the end of words
25	/ur/	worm world wor ship learn earth ear ly	or usually follows /w/ and is never found at the end of words ear is never found at the end of words
26	/or/	war, warm quar ter all ball al ways talk walk chalk	ar usually follows /w/ a is usually followed by /l/ al is followed by k and is found in only a few words (chalk, stalk, talk, walk)
27	/ow/		no new spellings
28	/air/		no new spellings
29	/eer/	fierce pierce tier	ier is uncommon and is found in only a few words (fierce, pier, pierce, tier, chan de lier, fron tier)
30	/uh/	me tal pe dal ca pi tal ca mel tu nnel squi rrel pen cil nos tril fo ssil	a, e and i before l at the end of words

Units 31 to 36

Suffixes

31	/a/ /e/ /i/ /o/ /u/	slammed ma dder stepped we ttest bi ggest wi nner ro tting robbed fu nny su pper	doubling before -ed, -er, -est, -ing and -y a single consonant at the end of a base is doubled when adding -ed, -er, -est, -ing and -y when the preceding letter is a single vowel representing /a/ (snap > snapped, /e/, (wed > we dding) /i/ (thin > thi nnest, /o/ (jot > jo tter) and /u/ (sun > su nny) Commonly doubled consonants are b (rub > rubbed), d (dad > da ddy), g (brag > bra gging), m (mum > mu mmy), n (sin > si nner), p (hop > hopped) and t (flat > fla ttest) some consonants are typically already doubled after a one letter vowel spelling representing /a/, /e/, /i/, /o/ and /u/: ck (back > ba cking), ff (sniff > sniffed), ll (smell > sme lly), ss (boss > bo ssy) and zz (buzz > buzzed)
32	final e	rac ing wi dest smo ky ru ler cu test starved wa sting grea sy	dropping a final e before -ed, -er, -est, -ing and -y when a base ends with a final e that is part of two-letter consonant spelling, the e is dropped before adding -ed, -er, est, -ing and -y (love > loved, please > plea sing, shine > shi ny, brave > bra vest, dense > den ser)
33	/ie/	fries dries su pplies fried dried su ppled fri er dri er su ppli er fry ing dry ing su pply ing	when the suffixes -ed, -er and -es are added to a word ending with /ie/ spelled y, the y is replaced with i (sky > skies, try > tried, de ny > de ni er) to avoid ii /ie/ spelled y is not replaced with i before -ing (cry ing, spy ing, re ply ing)
34	/ee/	co pied hu rried ha ppi er fu nni er ci ties wo rries ti di est noi si est ca ry ing stu dy ing	when the suffixes -ed, -er, -es are added to a word ending with /ee/ spelled y, the y is replaced with i (ma rry > ma rried, stor my > stor mi er, ba by > ba bies, si lly > si lli est) to avoid ii /ee/ spelled y is not replaced with i before -ing (bu lly ing, emp ty ing, scu rry ing) with two exceptions (ski ing, tax i ing)
34	-ful -less	joy ful care ful help ful joy less care less help less	the suffix -ful means 'full of' and forms adjectives the suffix -ful contains three sounds: /f/, /u/ and /l/ (although /u/ is often usually pronounced as /uh/) the suffix -less means 'without' and forms adjectives the suffix -less contains three sounds: /l/, /e/ and /s/ (although /e/ is often usually pronounced as /uh/)
36	-ly -ness	kind ly sad ly ha ppi ly kind ness sad ness ha ppi ness	the suffix -ly means 'in the manner of' and forms adverbs the suffix -ly contains two sounds: /l/ and /ee/ in words that end with /ee/ spelled y, the y is replaced with /uh/ spelled i (ha ppy > ha ppi ly, ea sy > ea si ly, an gry > an gri ly) the suffix -ness means 'the quality or state of' and forms nouns the suffix -ness contains two three sounds: /n/, /e/ and /s/ (although /e/ is usually pronounced as /uh/) in words that end with /ee/ spelled y, the y is replaced with i (la zy > la zi ness, lone ly > lone i ness, ug ly > ug i ness)