

Spelling lists – Stage 1

1. The /f/, /l/, /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 /ai/ and /oi/ digraphs. These digraphs are virtually never used at the end of words in English.
10. The ay and oy digraphs. These digraphs are used for those sounds at the ends of words and syllables.
11. The long vowel sound /a/ spelled with the split digraph a-e
12. The long vowel sound /e/ spelled with the split digraph e-e.
13. The long vowel sound /i/ spelled with a split digraph i-e.
14. The long vowel sound /o/ spelled with the split digraph o_e.
15. 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.
16. The /ar/ consonant digraph. This digraph may be used at the beginning, middle or end of words.
17. 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.
18. The long vowel sound /e/ spelled ea. Another common spelling of the sound which is often found in the middle and end of words.
19. The short vowel sound /e/ spelled ea.
20. The vowel digraph er. In these words the sound is stressed
21. The vowel digraph er. In these words the sound is unstressed and found at the end of words.
22. The digraphs ir and ur. Often found in the middle of words and occasionally at the beginning of words.
23. The long vowel sound /oo/ as in Zoo. Very few words start or end with /oo/
24. 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.
25. The 'oo' 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.
26. 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.
27. The 'ow' digraph. This digraph can make two different sounds like in 'cow' or in 'blow.'
28. 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.
29. The digraph 'ie' making the /a: / sound as in pie.
30. The digraph 'ie' making the /ee/ sound.
31. The long vowel sound /i/ spelled 'igh.' This is usually found in the middle of words but sometimes at the end of words too.
32. The /or/ 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.'
33. The /or/ 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.
34. 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.
35. The /er/ sound spelled with 'ear' or 'are'
36. Words with 'ph' or 'wh' spellings.