

Phase 6 Phonics Spelling Rules and Words

Phase 6 introduces new spelling rules and conventions, especially those concerning the addition of prefixes and suffixes to change the meaning or purpose of a word.

Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example
un-	not, reversal of	unlucky, unhappy
bi-	two	bicycle, bivalve
dis-	not, reverse, opposite	disappointed, disagree
mis-	wrong	misunderstand, misspell
pre-	before	prefix, prepay
re-	again	review, remake
sub-	under, below	submarine, substandard
tri-	three	triangle, tricycle
pro-	for	proclaim, proactive

Words do not change their spelling when a prefix is added, but children need to make sure they spell the prefix itself correctly, and also do not change the spelling of the root word. For example:

mis + spell → misspell (not mispell)

dis + appoint → disappoint (not dissappoint)

Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-ed	in the past/past tense	walked, climbed
-s/-es	more than one	pencils, boxes
-ing	doing something	singing, running
-ly	how something is done	quietly, angrily
-less	without	fearless, hopeless
-ful	full of	colourful, beautiful
-ness	state or condition	happiness, sadness
-ment	in the action of	movement, enjoyment
-er	more	lower, luckier
-est	most	lowest, luckiest

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Many words do not change when a suffix is added, but others do:

- Words that end with vowel + consonant — double the last letter before adding suffixes that begin with a vowel such as -ed, -ing and -est,
e.g. fit - fitter - fittest
bat - batted - batting
Don't double the last letter if the suffix begins with a consonant,
e.g. bat - bats
fit - fitness
- Words that end with consonant + 'y' — the 'y' becomes 'i' or 'ie' before the suffix is added,
e.g. puppy - puppies
happy - happiness
lucky - luckier - luckiest
fry - fried
- Words that end with vowel + y do not change,
e.g. monkey - monkeys
enjoy - enjoying
- Words that end with x, zz, ch, tch, sh — add -es to make a plural,
e.g. fox - foxes
wish - wishes

Contracted Forms

Children need to learn not only how to spell the contracted form of the word, but also how to correctly place the apostrophe to represent the missing letters. (This is not an exhaustive list.)

Original Words	Contracted Form
I am	I'm
you are	you're
he is	he's
she is	she's
we are	we're
they are	they're
cannot	can't
will not	won't
is not	isn't
are not	aren't
I have	I've
you have	you've
I would	I'd
you would	you'd
he would	he'd
she would	she'd
we would	we'd
let us	let's

Homophones

This is not an exhaustive list, but these are the more common words children are likely to come across. Further homophones are taught as children progress through school.

Homophones
be/bee
bear/bare
blew/blue
hear/here
knight/night
one/won
quite/quiet
see/sea
son/sun
to/two/too
there/their/they're

High Frequency Words

Children need to be able to read and spell these words quickly and fluently. A full list can be found on the [Twinkl 200 High-Frequency Words Word Mat](#).

Not all schools teach phonics according to the government's Letters and Sounds scheme, choosing instead to use an alternative scheme. All the sounds and words are still taught but may be in a different order. It's always worth checking with your child's school and attending any information sessions they may hold about early reading and writing.

