

Spelling - Book 5

Unit 1: Words with silent letter b

Silent letters are sneaky. We see them when we read the word but we cannot hear them when we say the word. That makes words with silent letters hard to *spell*.

Unit 2: Words ending in -ible

horrible
terrible
visible
possible
sensible
responsible
They all end in **-ible**.

Most words ending in **-ible** don't have an obvious root word:
horr + **ible** = horrible
terr + **ible** = terrible
vis + **ible** = visible
poss + **ible** = possible

But sometimes we can hear an obvious root word:

sense + **ible** = sensible
response + **ible** = responsible

Did you notice that we have to **drop** the **e** before we add **-ible**?

thumb	numb
crumb	debt
doubt	limb
climb	comb
tomb	



Unit 3: Words ending in -able

considerable miserable
understandable enviable

They all end in the suffix **-able**.

You can't really hear the **a** when we say the suffix **-able** in these words - it sounds like **ubble** to rhyme with trouble.

Miserable is an unusual word, because we **drop** the **y** from misery when we add **-able**:
misery + **able** = miserable

Unit 4: Words with silent letter t

Silent letters are sometimes left over from when the words were pronounced differently. Some words have been borrowed from another language, where the letters make a different sound.

There are no clear rules for spelling words with silent letters - the best way to learn them is to read and write them lots of times.

Unit 5: Words ending in -ibly and -ably

To turn **-ible** and **-able** adjectives into adverbs, we replace the **-le** ending of the adjective with **-ly**.

understandable - understandably
suitable - suitably
comfortable - comfortably

Unit 6: Words ending in -ent

frequent
ancient
confident
patient
dependent
magnificent

Even though these words end in **-ent** the letters are crushed so they sound like **unt** when we say them. It can be tricky to know whether to write **-ent** or **-ant**.

Tip 1: It is always safe to write **-ent** after soft **c** or soft **g**:

magnificent intelligent

Tip 2: It is almost always safe to write **-ent** after **qu**, **ti** or **ci**:

frequent patient ancient

We can create adverbs, too, by adding the suffix **-ly** to some of our adjectives ending in **-ent**.

Unit 7: Words ending in -ence

These nouns end in **-ence**. They are usually pronounced with **-ence** 'crushed' so it sounds like *uns*.

silence absence magnificence
intelligence obedience
dependence innocence patience

Some nouns end **-ency** instead of **-ence**.

frequency decency agency

The best way to remember whether the noun ends in **-ency** or **-ence** is to read and practise writing the words lots of times.

Unit 8: The ee sound spelt ei

The ee sound can be spelt ei.

receive deceive ceiling receipt
conceit conceive seize protein
caffeine

The words **either** and **neither** can be pronounced with the *ee* or the *igh* sound but they always have the vowel sound spelt **ei**.

Remember to **drop** the final **e** before adding the suffixes **-ing** or **-ed**.

Remember to **drop** the final **e** before adding the suffixes **-ing** or **-ed**.



Unit 9: Words ending in -ant, -ance, and -ancy

These words end in **-ant** or **-ance**. They are usually pronounced with **ant** 'crushed' so it sounds like *unt* and **-ance** 'crushed' so it sounds like *unce*.

Some nouns end in **-ancy** instead of **-ance**.

vacancy hesitancy pregnancy

The best way to remember whether the noun ends in **-ancy** or **-ance** is to read and practise writing the words lots of times.

Unit 11: Words ending in shus spelt -tious

The ending that sounds like *shus* is spelt **-tious** at the end of these adjectives. Exaggerate the final syllable in each word, e.g. scrumptious.

cautious infectious ambitious
superstitious nutritious

When we change the noun **fiction** into an adjective, we must keep the **t** and add an extra **i** before adding **-tious**. The adjective is **fictitious**.

Unit 10: Words ending in shus spelt -cious

The ending that sounds like *shus* is spelt **-cious** at the end of these adjectives:

spacious vicious precious
suspicious conscious
delicious

You can't hear the first **s** in the word **conscious**. Say *cons-shus* when you write it to help you remember how to spell **conscious**.



Unit 12: Words ending in shul spelt -cial or -tial

The ending that sounds like *shul* is spelt **-cial** or **-tial** at the end of these adjectives:


official special social artificial
financial essential partial
confidential initial

-tial often comes after a consonant
and **-cial** often comes after a vowel.



Tip: **-tial** often comes after a consonant (e.g. **essential**) and **-cial** often comes after a vowel (e.g. **official**).

But beware! The words **initial** and **financial** don't follow that pattern!



SF1: Words that contain the letter-string ough

The letters **ough** can be used to spell lots of different sounds:
fought nought ought bought
cough trough rough tough
enough thorough



SF3: Orange Words

Orange words: Proceed with caution!

These are common words that even some adults find tricky to spell. We have to work extra hard to learn them.

Some orange words have double letters in them.

accompany according appreciate
attached accommodate
aggressive



SF2: Homophones

Words that sound the same but have different meanings and spellings are called **homophones**.

The Greek word for same is **homo**.
The Greek word for sound is **phone**.

homophone = same sound

pair pear

cereal serial heard herd
steal steel father farther
stationery stationary

SF4: Orange Words

Sometimes **y** can make a vowel sound, such as in these words:

- rhyme
- rhythm
- symbol
- system
- forty
- curiosity

SF5: Homophones and other words that are easily confused

The words that end in **-ed** are the past tense of **verbs**. Each verb's homophone has a different meaning.

allowed	aloud
guessed	guest
passed	past



Lead (rhyming with fed) is a heavy metal. This can be confusing because it sounds like **led**, which is the past tense of the verb lead.

SF6: Orange Words



There are two ways of saying the word **lead**:

Lead (rhyming with seed) is something you use to take a dog for a walk (dog lead). It can mean that someone is ahead of others (in the lead). It is also a present tense verb (Lead the way, Sarah!).



Some orange words have double letters in them.

- embarrass
- excellent
- exaggerate
- especially
- interrupt

Say to yourself, "I went really red and felt so silly!" to help you remember the double **r** and the double **s** in embarrass.

SF7: Orange words

- develop
- determined
- familiar
- definite
- awkward
- persuade



SF9: Orange Words

Computer spell-checkers sometimes suggest American spellings.

For example, they might suggest you change marvellous (UK) to marvelous (US) or TV programme (UK) to TV program (US). Become your own spell-checker!

SF8: Homophones and other words that are easily confused

Some words are near-homophones. They share almost the same pronunciation.

affect	effect
accept	except

The words above that begin with an **a** are **verbs**.

advise	practise
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These are **verbs** ending in **se**.

advice	practice
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These are **nouns** ending in **ce**.

The ending **se** sounds like **z** in the word **advise**.

SF10: Orange words

- convenience
- muscle
- disastrous
- neighbour
- interfere



SF11: Orange words

Lots of words have letters that are not silent but they are quiet. We can't quite hear them when we say the words.

When we spell words with them in, we have to remember they are there.

- average
- desperate
- temperature
- vegetable
- frequently
- equipment

SF12: Orange Words

- bruise
- nuisance
- recognise
- criticise



Great Spelling!