

Year 2 Spellings

Spelling pattern	Rules for use	Example words
ge and dge	The letter j is never used at the end of words. The spelling -dge is used straight after short vowel sounds. After all other sounds it is spelt –ge at the end of words.	badge, edge, bridge, dodge, fudge age, huge, change, charge, bulge, village
g and j	In other positions in the words, it is spelt g before e, i and y. It is spelt j before a, o and u.	gem, giant, magic, energy, giraffe, jacket, jar, jog, join, adjust
c	For the ‘s’ sound before e, l and y.	race, ice, cell, city, fancy
kn and gn	For the ‘n’ sound at the beginning of words. gn is less common.	knock, know, knee, gnat, gnaw
wr	For the ‘r’ sound at the beginning of words.	write, written, wrote, wrong, wrap
le	For the ‘ul’ sound at the ends of words. The most common spelling for this sound at the ends of words.	table, apple, bottle, little, middle
el	Much less common. Used after m, n, r, s, v, w.	camel, tunnel, squirrel, travel, towel, tinsel
al	Not many nouns end in –al, but many adjectives do.	metal, pedal, capital, hospital, animal
il	There are not many of these words.	pencil, fossil, nostril
-y	For the ‘ie’ sound at the ends of words. The most common spelling for this sound at the ends of words.	Cry, fry, dry, try, reply, July
Adding –es to words ending in -y	Change the y to an i before adding –es.	Flies, tries, replies, copies, babies, carries
Adding –ed, -ing, -er and –est to a word ending in –y with a consonant	Change the y to an l before adding –ed, -er and –est, but not before –ing.	copied, copier, copying, happier, happiest, cried, crying, replied, replying

before it.		
Adding –ed, -ing, -er –y and –est to a word ending in –e with a consonant before it.	The –e at the end of the root word is dropped before –ing, -ed, -er, -est, -y.	hiking, hiked, hiker, nicer, nicest, shiny
Adding –ed, -ing, -er –y and –est to words of one syllable ending in a single consonant letter after a single vowel letter	The last consonant letter of the root word is doubled. <i>The letter x is never doubled.</i>	patting, patted, humming, hummed, dropping, dropped, sadder, saddest, fatter, fattest, runner, runny
The ‘or’ sound spelt a before l or ll		all, ball, call, walk, talk, always
The ‘u’ sound spelt o		other, mother, brother, nothing, Monday
The ‘ee’ sound spelt ey	The plural of these words are spelt by adding –s <i>e.g. donkeys.</i>	key, donkey, monkey, chimney, valley
The ‘o’ sound spelt a after w and qu		want, watch, wander, quantity, squash
The ‘er’ sound spelt or after w	There are not many of these words.	word, work, worm, world, worth
The ‘or’ sound spelt ar after w	There are not many of these words.	war, warm, towards
The ‘zh’ sound spelt s		television, treasure, usual
The suffixes –ment, –ness, –ful, –less and –ly	If a suffix starts with a consonant letter, it is added straight on to most root words without any change to the last letter of those words. Except for root words ending in –y with a consonant before it but only if the root word has more than one syllable	enjoyment, sadness, careful, playful, hopeless, plainness (plain + ness), badly merriment, happiness, plentiful, penniless, happily
Contractions	In contractions, the apostrophe shows where a letter or letters	can’t, didn’t, hasn’t, couldn’t, it’s, I’ll

	would be if the words were written in full (e.g. can't – cannot).	
The possessive apostrophe		Megan's, Ravi's, the girl's, the child's, the man's
Words ending in -tion		station, fiction, national, motion, section
Homophones and near homophones	Words that sound the same but have different meanings.	there/their/they're, hear/here, quiet/quite, see/sea, bear/bare, one/won, sun/son, two/to/too, bee/be, blue/blew, night/knight
Common exception words	Words such as <i>fast, past, bath, path, last</i> are exceptions in some accents where the 'a' is not sounded a as in cat, but sounds 'ar'.	door, floor, poor, because, find, mind, kind, behind, child, wild, climb, most, only, both, old, cold, hold, told, gold, every, everybody, even, great, break, steak, pretty, beautiful, after, fast, last, past, father, class, grass, pass, plant, path, bath, hour, move, prove, improve, sure, sugar, eye, could, should, would, who, whole, any, many, clothes, busy, people, water, again, half, money, Mr, Mrs, parents, Christmas