

# Spelling – years 6

Revise work done in previous years

New work for years 5 and 6

| Statutory requirements                                | Rules and guidance (non-statutory)  | Example words (non-statutory)   |
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| Endings which sound like /ʃəs/ spelt –cious or –tious | <p>Not many common words end like this.</p> <p>If the root word ends in <b>–ce</b>, the /ʃ/ sound is usually spelt as <b>c</b> – e.g. <i>vice</i> – <i>vicious</i>, <i>grace</i> – <i>gracious</i>, <i>space</i> – <i>spacious</i>, <i>malice</i> – <i>malicious</i>.</p> <p><b>Exception:</b> <i>anxious</i>.</p>  | vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious, ambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious   |
| Endings which sound like /ʃəl/                        | <p><b>–cial</b> is common after a vowel letter and <b>–tial</b> after a consonant letter, but there are some exceptions.</p> <p><b>Exceptions:</b> initial, financial, commercial, provincial (the spelling of the last three is clearly related to <i>finance</i>, <i>commerce</i> and <i>province</i>).</p>   | official, special, artificial, partial, confidential, essential   |
| Words ending in –ant, –ance/–ancy, –ent, –ence/–ency  | <p>Use <b>–ant</b> and <b>–ance/–ancy</b> if there is a related word with a /æ/ or /eɪ/ sound in the right position; <b>–ation</b> endings are often a clue.</p> <p>Use <b>–ent</b> and <b>–ence/–ency</b> after soft <b>c</b> (/s/ sound), soft <b>g</b> (/dʒ/ sound) and <b>qu</b>, or if there is a related word with a clear /ɛ/ sound in the right position.</p> <p>There are many words, however, where the above guidance does not help. These words just have to be learnt.</p> | <p>observant, observance, (observation), expectant (expectation), hesitant, hesitancy (hesitation), tolerant, tolerance (toleration), substance (substantial)</p> <p>innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, confident, confidence (confidential)</p> <p>assistant, assistance, obedient, obedience, independent, independence</p> |

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| <p>Homophones and other words that are often confused</p>             | <p>In the pairs of words opposite, nouns end <b>-ce</b> and verbs end <b>-se</b>. <i>Advice</i> and <i>advise</i> provide a useful clue as the word <i>advise</i> (verb) is pronounced with a /z/ sound – which could not be spelt <b>c</b>.</p> <p><u>More examples:</u><br/> aisle: a gangway between seats (in a church, train, plane). isle: an island.<br/> aloud: out loud. allowed: permitted.<br/> affect: usually a verb (e.g. <i>The weather may affect our plans</i>).<br/> effect: usually a noun (e.g. <i>It may have an effect on our plans</i>). If a verb, it means ‘bring about’ (e.g. <i>He will effect changes in the running of the business</i>).<br/> altar: a table-like piece of furniture in a church. alter: to change.<br/> ascent: the act of ascending (going up). assent: to agree/agreement (verb and noun).<br/> bridal: to do with a bride at a wedding. bridle: reins etc. for controlling a horse.<br/> cereal: made from grain (e.g. breakfast cereal). serial: adjective from the noun <i>series</i> – a succession of things one after the other.<br/> compliment: to make nice remarks about someone (verb) or the remark that is made (noun).<br/> complement: related to the word <i>complete</i> – to make something complete or more complete (e.g. <i>her scarf complemented her outfit</i>).</p> | <p>advice/advise<br/> device/devise<br/> licence/license<br/> practice/practise<br/> prophecy/prophesy<br/> farther: further father: a male parent<br/> guessed: past tense of the verb <i>guess</i> guest: visitor<br/> heard: past tense of the verb <i>hear</i> herd: a group of animals<br/> led: past tense of the verb <i>lead</i> lead: present tense of that verb, or else the metal which is very heavy (<i>as heavy as lead</i>)<br/> morning: before noon<br/> mourning: grieving for someone who has died<br/> past: noun or adjective referring to a previous time (e.g. <i>In the past</i>) or preposition or adverb showing place (e.g. <i>he walked past me</i>)<br/> passed: past tense of the verb ‘pass’ (e.g. <i>I passed him in the road</i>)<br/> precede: go in front of or before proceed: go on</p> |
| <p>Homophones and other words that are often confused (continued)</p> | <p>descent: the act of descending (going down). dissent: to disagree/disagreement (verb and noun).<br/> desert: as a noun – a barren place (stress on first syllable); as a verb – to abandon (stress on second syllable) dessert: (stress on second syllable) a sweet course after the main course of a meal.<br/> draft: noun – a first attempt at writing something; verb – to make the first attempt; also, to draw in</p>  | <p>principal: adjective – most important (e.g. principal ballerina) noun – important person (e.g. principal of a college) principle: basic truth or belief<br/> profit: money that is made in selling things prophet: someone who foretells the future<br/> stationary: not moving stationery: paper, envelopes etc.<br/> steal: take something that</p>   |

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|  | someone (e.g. to draft in extra help) draught: a current of air. | does not belong to you steel: metal<br>wary: cautious weary: tired<br>who's: contraction of who is or who has whose: belonging to someone (e.g. Whose jacket is that?) |
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