

Year 2 Spelling: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to spelling can help you support your child's learning at home. Each subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing all the resources you need to understand how the spelling patterns work in each year group along with techniques and resources to help you support your child.

Within this area of the website, you will find a selection of materials and activities intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Spelling

How Is Spelling Taught in Year 2?

Spellings are taught similarly in years 1 and 2, starting with short words. The simplest words for children to learn to spell are called CVC words, which stands for consonant-vowel-consonant. Words like pig, bat and log are CVC words because they have a vowel sandwiched between two consonants. Then, as words begin to get longer, children learn their spellings in groups (such as words that all end in -ear).

What Spelling Vocabulary Do I Need To Know?

Children learn about the sounds (phonemes) and letters (graphemes) that make up written and spoken English. These link closely with spelling, as certain sounds can be expected to follow a certain spelling pattern. We refer to this teaching approach as 'phonics' and since the development of this literacy strategy in England, it has become the dominant method of teaching spellings.

A phoneme is the smallest amount of sound that is put together to make a word; there are 44 of them in English.

Graphemes are the written letters that represent those phonemes. For example, "ch" is a phoneme sound that's made up of two letters. Common graphemes are as follows:

One-letter phonemes: p, c, k.

Two-letter phonemes - sh, oi, ow, ah.

Three-letter phonemes - tch, igh.

Four-letter phonemes - ough, eigh.

When your child attempts to spell a word, they will often be encouraged to 'sound it out' or break it down into smaller sounds. To do this, they can remember the phonemes they've learnt and how they're represented in written form.

What About Spellings That Don't Follow the Rules?

It is true that many spellings in English don't follow phonic rules. These words are also taught throughout primary school and are known as 'common exception words'. As your child comes across these, they will need to memorise the words and recognise them on sight (rather than sound them out).

What Are High-Frequency Words?

Teachers like children to practise high-frequency words in years 1 and 2. These are words that are often used in reading and writing, such as the, and, him, her or about. You'll find that words on the high frequency list often overlap with common exception words, meaning they'll need to be recognised on sight rather than sounded out.

What Spelling Strategies Can I Use to Help My Child With Their Spellings?

A common method to aid spelling is called 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' - the method is in the name! First, have your child look at the word and say it aloud (you can gently help if they pronounce it incorrectly); after that, cover the word with a hand or strip of paper, then have your child write out the word. Once they've attempted the spelling, they can self-check by uncovering the word and comparing.

Another strategy to help aid spelling is to put the words in context. Can your child use the word appropriately in a sentence? Linking the spelling with the meaning can help broaden your child's vocabulary and deepen their overall understanding.

Grab a Dictionary

It's a good idea to have a suitable infant school dictionary on a bookshelf with your own adult dictionaries. Children love looking things up; seeing you do the same when you're unsure of a spelling is a great way to model good habits too.

Word Pyramids

Word pyramids can help to demonstrate how each spelling is broken down into its separate letters. On a piece of paper or a whiteboard, write the first letter of a word at the top-centre. Underneath, write the first two letters so the three letters make a triangle. On the next line, write three letters, making a triangle that gets bigger with each word. For example, to spell ball:

b
ba
bal
ball

Coloured Writing

During spelling practise, you can maintain your child's focus and interest by introducing fun pens and other writing materials. Perhaps you could let them use a new colour each time they rewrite the word or even a different colour for each letter. You might also have them write using fun materials such as playdough (rolled into long sausages), sand, sugar, paints, whiteboards and more. What materials can your child think of?

Missing Letter Games

When practising groups of words your child has learnt, it's important not to forget the earlier words. You can help your child to practise by maintaining a list (or obtaining one from their class teacher where appropriate) and playing a missing letter game. You can use a whiteboard or pen and paper to write out words with a gap, e.g. c_t or _ig. Can your child fill in the letter that's missing? Is there more than one option (e.g. c_t could become cat or cot)?



Step 1



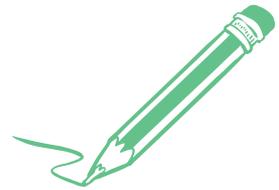
Practising Common Exception Words

Common exception words those words where usual spelling rules don't apply. Some of these words are used frequently and so it's important that children practise them regularly. This helpful word mat contains popular common exception words for years 1 and 2. Try to use a range of fun missing letter games to help your child learn them and only attempt five or six at a time. You could encourage your child to write the words with different materials including markers, paint and chalk. Why not try miming one of the words and have your child guess what it is by writing it down?

Common Exception Word Activity Mat

Once your child has repeatedly practised these words through games and writing them down in different ways, these colourful activity mats are great to use in a spare moment at the weekend or for a few minutes at the end of a school day. There are lots of resources and activities to keep the learning going. Try to match the words you focus on with the spellings your child's school sends home.

Step 2



Step 3

Year 2 Spelling Packs

To keep the motivation for spelling going, using a variety of methods is the way to go. This pack can support year 1 spellings using the 'look, say, cover, write, check' method, handwriting exercises and word searches. This is just one example: why not search for 'year 1 spelling' on Twinkl Parents to find the best pack to use to support the spellings your child has been given by their school?

Spelling Posters

Many school classrooms display word posters on their walls, as children can regularly review what they've been learning to help as they work independently (or while they're daydreaming!). Why not print out these colourful spelling rules to review the year 2 spelling rules once your child has got to the end of the summer term? You could display them in a helpful, visible place where your child can be reminded of the words that follow each spelling rule.

Step 4

Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



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Go!



twinkl
Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!



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Boost

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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ORIGINALS

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!