Year 6 Spelling Summary

In the Year 6, pupils are assessed on their spelling ability in a Key Stage Two test (SATs). Below is a table of spelling rules that are taught in previous years and revisited in year 6. Year 6 children are **expected** to know these rules and be able to use them consistently.

Spelling is not only a matter of simply learning to spell and write a few words each week – it requires an understanding of how word sounds are built up from letters. It also makes the process of writing easier, since spelling becomes intuitive, allowing children to use ambitious vocabulary.

Word Type	Rule	Examples
Plurals More than one of something.	Just add –s to the root (usually when it ends in a consonant or –e)	attempts, carriages, castles, creatures, engines, foundations, hedges, materials, pieces, selects, stripes, structures, visitors, articles, remains,
	When a word ends in –y, change y to i, then add -es	bodies, cities, families
	Some plurals change the word completely, or don't change at all…	people, feet, teeth, sheep
	Other **plural** rules: • If a word ends in **–ch, -sh, -x or -s** you need to add **–es** to the end • **Some** words ending in **–f** have the *f changed to v then add –es, **but*** some just add –s. • If a word ends in **–o** it might just get an s added (e.g we all said our hellos, whilst polishing our halos) or it might have to have an –es (cave systems can contain one grotto, or many grottoes). Usually, it's an –s for a vowel+o at the end of the word, and –es for a consonant+o	watch -> watches thief -> thieves roof -> roofs ; hoof -> hooves video -> videos ; radio -> radios potato -> potatoes ; tomatoes
Verb endings Present/future tense	Add –ing for present/future tense	according, building, climbing, extinguishing, fighting, gleaming, interesting, sprawling, spreading, vanishing, during
Verb endings Present/future tense	drop final -e before adding -ing	challenging, escaping, exciting, including, moving, raising, wrestling, amazing,

Word Type	Rule	Examples
Verb endings Present/future tense	Protect short vowel sounds by doubling the last consonant before adding -ing	beginning, planning, stopping, swimming
Verb Endings Past tense	Add –ed for past tense.	absorbed, camped, delivered, designed, developed, disappeared, disturbed, echoed, finished, rehearsed, remained, stretched, transformed, transported, uncoiled, discovered,
Verb endings Past tense	Protect short vowel sounds, usually in one/two syllable root words, by doubling the last consonant before adding -ed	grabbed, occurred, planned, slipped, stopped, trapped
Verb Endings Past tense	When a word ends in –y, change y to i, then add -ed	carried, qualified, satisfied
Verb endings Past tense	Some verbs just add –d	arrived, disguised, excited, illuminated, injured, involved, judged, released, replaced, required
Adverbs **-ly** words to add detail to **verbs**	1. Double consonants to protect short vowels	actually, carefully, generally, gradually, physically
Adverbs **-ly** words to add detail to **verbs**	2. just add –ly to words ending in a consonant or after a long vowel	frequently, gingerly, highly, importantly, particularly, perfectly, smoothly, thoroughly
Adverbs **-ly** words to add detail to **verbs**	3. where a terminal -e is making a long vowel sound elsewhere in the word, leave it alone and add –ly	approximately, extremely
Adverbs **-ly** words to add detail to **verbs**	4. Where a terminal –e is not influencing another vowel, remove it before adding -ly	gently

Word Type	Rule	Examples
-ie- or –ei- words Note: This is a tricky one, since the most common words using the pattern frequently don't follow the rule… friend being the most obvious.	i before e except after c? Kind of… It's actually, When the sound is /ee/, put i before e, unless it follows a c. For all other sounds, use -EI- … unless you know that it's wrong.	believe, pierce <- both are /ee/ sounds
Words that use -**c- to make an /s/** sound	These are one of those odd word groups that you just have to 'know'.	audience, centre, century, excellent, exciting, necessary, notice, silence, participate, precious, currency
Prefixes Prefixes alter the meaning of the word.	Need to know all key prefixes. Ad – Al – Des – Dis – En - Ex - In – Im – Pre - Pro – Re - Trans – Un –	advertise, almost, destructive, disappeared, disturbed, encounter, encourage, ensure, important, injured, inspecting, invention, involved, preserve, prevent, produce, together, transformed, transported, uncoiled, unusual, discovered, exclusive, unusual, despite, responsible
Various Suffixes Suffixes alter the meaning of the word, usually in co-operation with a prefix, and often with regard to action or strength of meaning.	Need to know all key suffixes + rules to add them, based on final letter of root words (these are largely the same as the ones for adding –ly.) Most important rule is that if a root word ends in a vowel, and the suffix starts with one – something will have to change!	beautiful, carefully, colourful, effortless, hopeful, regardless, successful, wonderful, responsible
Superlatives A specific suffix	Add –est to denote the 'best' of a group of objects	biggest, largest, nastiest, tallest, widest
Comparatives A specific suffix	Add –er to make direct comparisons	taller, larger, bigger, nastier, wider

Word Type	Rule	Examples
Compound words	Some words are made by joining two words together	countryside, headquarters, themselves, throughout
Double consonants	Used to protect/create short vowel sounds in words	apprehensive, common, different, difficult, excellent, follow, million, opposite, passenger, pollution, press, slippery, still, successful, sunny, permission, currency, common, opportunity,
Silent letters + /j/ sounds	Many letters are used 'silently' in words. Children should be able to identify their presence by considering the word structure. /j/ can be made using –j- , -g- , -ge- , -ge- or –dge-	castles, climbing, designed, different, environment, hedges, interesting, knowledge, known, should, strength, stretched, surprise, wrestling
/shun/ sound	There are five ways of spelling this sound: shun; for the word 'shun' -cian; for words describing jobs -tion; as a suffix linked to actions -sion; often for emotive words and adjectives -tian	Completion, destination, direction, foundations, generation invention, pollution, question
-ive words A specific suffix	Usually used as a suffix; often misspelled as -iv, -eve or –ave. It follows the normal suffix rules	apprehensive, destructive, expensive
-al words A specific suffix	Another suffix; often misspelled as -el	special, digital, festival, individual, original
/ee/ sounds	Can be made in a number of ways. Frequently misspelled at the end of words, where a –y should be used.	accuracy, emergency, noisy, ready, sunny
Homophones	These words have the same sound as another, but are spelt differently	heard (herd), practice (practise), weight (wait), where (wear, ware)

Word Type	Rule	Examples
Common Words	These words incorporate a range of spelling rules and sound patterns, including some of those listed above	amongst, anchors, audience, aware, between, breeze, capable, change, complete, crawl, crept, first, future, journey, moment, most, mysterious, perform, press, purpose, realistic, serious, shook, silence, sneeze, symbol, technique, top, tumble, luxury, delicate, ordinary, fibres,