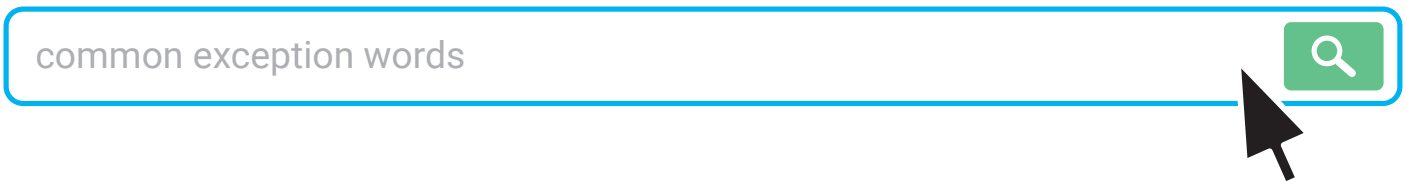


Year 1 Spelling: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

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 However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date.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.

Punctuation

How Are Spellings Taught in Year 1?

Spellings are taught using short words in year 1. 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.

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 certain spelling patterns. 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 graphemes - p, c, k.

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

Three-letter graphemes - tch, igh.

Four-letter graphemes - 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).

There is a lot of jargon around spelling, but much of that isn't necessary to help your child at home. What is important is to become aware of which phonemes, graphemes or common exception words your child is working on - you can rely on Twinkl to help.

Grab a Dictionary

It's a good idea to have a suitable children's 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.

Get Moving

Using a box or bag, gather together a group of objects or flashcards that represent spellings that your child is working on (e.g. a toy cat). One by one, have your child reach into the container and pick an object or picture to spell by writing on a piece of paper or a whiteboard.

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)?

Spelling Treasure Basket

Encouraging your child to spell aloud while completing a movement (e.g. star-jumps or claps) for each sound or letter of a spelling can help to make repeating spellings more fun. For example, the word cat can be broken down into c-a-t (either the sounds or the letters) with a fun move on each beat. This can also help children who find it tricky to sit still for practise.



Step 1

Practising Common Exception Words

Common exception words are words where usual spelling rules don't apply. Some of these words are used frequently and so it's important that children practise them throughout years 1 and 2. This helpful word mat contains popular common exception words for year 1. 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 Mats

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 1 Spelling Packs

In order 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?



Hook a Duck

Children love interactive games - this Hook a Duck PowerPoint game is a fun way to practise spellings in a non-pressured way. Click on the ducks to reveal the letters in the example word - can your child guess the full word before all the letters are revealed? This game can maintain your child's interest and is something that they can use independently.

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!