

Year Five and Six Spelling

Rule	Examples	
Endings spelt –cious or –	vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious	
tious	ambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious	
Endings spelt -al	official, special, artificial, partial, confidential, essential	
Words ending in –ant, –	observant, observance, (observation), expectant (expectation),	
ance/-ancy, -ent, -ence/-	hesitant, hesitancy (hesitation), tolerant, tolerance (toleration),	
ency	substance (substantial)	
	innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, confident,	
	confidence (confidential)	
	assistant, assistance, obedient, obedience, independent,	
	independence	
Words ending in –able and –	adorable/adorably (adoration),	
ible	applicable/applicably (application), considerable/considerably	
Words ending in –ably and –	(consideration), tolerable/tolerably (toleration)	
ibly	changeable, noticeable, forcible, legible	
	dependable, comfortable, understandable, reasonable, enjoyable,	
	reliable	
	possible/possibly, horrible/horribly, terrible/terribly, visible/visibly,	
	incredible/incredibly, sensible/sensibly	
	Adding suffixes beginning	
	with vowel letters to words	
	ending in –fer	
	referring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred,	
Adding suffixes beginning	referring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, transferring,	
with vowel letters to words	transferred	
ending in -fer	reference, referee, preference, transference	
Use of the hyphen	co-ordinate, re-enter, co-operate, co-own	
Words with the 'e' sound	deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling	

spelt ei after c	
Words containing the letterstring ough	ought, bought, thought, nought, brought rough, tough, enough cough though, although, dough through thorough, borough plough, bough
Words with 'silent' letters (i.e. letters whose presence cannot be predicted from the pronunciation of the word)	doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight
Homophones and other words that are often confused	profit: money that is made in selling things prophet: someone who foretells the future steal: take something that does not belong to you steel: metal who's: contraction of who is or who has whose: belonging to someone (e.g. Whose jacket is that?)