### A COMPLETE BOOK OF

# SPELLING

With Spelling Rules, Troublesome Spellings, British and American Spelling Rules & Lists

A COMPREHENSIVE AND PERFECT BOOK FOR EVERYONE,
ALL LEVELS & EVERY EXAM

By

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### **SPELLING**

"It is a scientific law of language that if enough people make a mistake, the mistake becomes acceptable usage. That law applies to pronunciation, to grammar, to word meanings, but not to spellings." (Norman Lewis)

We form a word by writing or naming the letters in the correct order. So 'spelling is the act of spelling words correctly'.

In English, there is no simple relationship between speech sounds and their graphic representation, a single sound may be written in a number of different ways. For example, the homonyms 'to', 'too', and 'two' have differing syntactic and semantic functions; 'night' and 'knight' are both nouns, but mean different things. So the spelling of English, so far as its relation to the spoken word is concerned, is "quite crazy".

Everyone who has difficulty with spelling words correctly can derive some comfort from knowing that some very good writers have been notoriously bad spellers. It's also comforting to bad spellers to know that this business of spelling seems to have little to do with intelligence. It has more to do with how we remember things.

Some people, once they've seen a word spelled correctly, will never misspell that word again. Those are the people who, if you ask them how to spell a word, will first say, "Wait a second. Let me write it down." If you are not a strong visual learner, but learn in other ways, you will have to learn some other tricks to become a strong speller.

Why do you need to learn to spell correctly?

• poor spelling creates a bad impression

- ☐ it's the first thing a reader notices
   ☐ examiners, teachers, prospective employers, often place undue weight on spelling
- anxiety about spelling inhibits a child's writing ☐ especially their choice of words
- even in these days of word processors there are still times when we need to write

#### To improve and develop your spelling you need to:

- develop an interest in words
- feel safe about trying new words
- learn about
  - ☐ the way words are built up using syllables
  - □ basic spelling patterns of English
  - **□** memorising strategies
  - $\Box$  the meanings of words
  - $\square$  prefixes and suffixes
- write for their own enjoyment
  - □ without the fear that they will be criticised
- read for pleasure

### We can improve our spellings by:

- Reading intelligently.
- Referring to a good dictionary.
- Memorizing strategies, relying sometimes on 'memory phrases' and sentences to help fix spellings in our mind.
- Writing in notebook words frequently mis-spelt.
- developing an interest in words
- feeling safe about trying new words
- learning about
  - \* the way words are built up using syllables
  - \*basic spelling patterns of English

\* the meanings of words

Remembering how to spell new words
When you come across a new word ALWAYS use the
LOOK - THINK - COVER - WRITE - CHECK method
to

memorize it. No doubt you learned this trick in your; primary school days but it will be just as useful when you are twenty-six as when you were six!

- LOOK carefully at the new word. How can you break it into smaller bits? Do any of the smaller bits remind you of the patterns of letters from other words?
- THINK about the parts of the words, which might cause problems double letters for instance, or a vowel that isn't pronounced as you would expect.
- COVER the word and close your eyes. Try to see it in your mind's eye.
- WRITE the word down without looking back.
- CHECK to see if you're right. If not, look carefully at where you went wrong and try again.

<sup>\*</sup> prefixes and suffixes

### **More Hot Tips**

\* Whenever you have to copy a new word from the blackboard, from a book, or from the dictionary, always try to write the whole word in one go.

Don't keep looking back after every few letters.

\* Try finger writing: while you're thinking about the word, pretend to write it with your finger, on your desk or on your hand.

### SPELLING RULES

When the sound is like 'ee' (meet), we use 'i' before 'e' except 'c'.
 Examples:
 Belief, relief,
 Receive, perceive

Exceptions: Seize, weird, counterfeit

This rule, designed to help us remember how to spell words such as *receive* and *chief*, seems so promising in its simplicity at first.

- achieve, believe, bier, brief, hygiene, grief, thief, friend, grieve, chief, fiend, patience, pierce, priest
- ceiling, conceive, deceive, perceive, receipt, receive, deceit, conceit

But then things get complicated: it doesn't work with words pronounced "ay" as in neighbor, freight, beige, sleigh, weight, vein, and weigh and there are many exceptions to the rule: either, neither, feint, foreign, forfeit, height, leisure, weird, seize, and seizure.

Still, the rule is relatively simple and worth remembering.

2. Words ending in –y preceded by a consonant change the 'y' into 'i' before any suffix except –ing.

#### Examples:

Try – tries – tried – trier, but trying.

Marry – marries – married – marriage, but marrying.

Study – studies – studied – studious, but studying.

Exceptions: Shyness, shyly, dryness

3. Words ending in –y preceded by a vowel retain the –y before any

suffix.

Examples:

Employ – employes – employed – employer – employee – employing.

Exceptions: Lay – layer – laying, but laid;

Say - sayer - saying, but said;

Pay, but paid – repaid;

Day – days, but daily.

4. In words of one syllable that end in a single consonant preceded by a single vowel, we double the consonant when we add a suffix beginning with a vowel.

Examples:

Beg – begging – beggar;

Slip – slipper – slippery.

Note: We do not double the consonant if the word ends in two consonants (Butt – butted; fast – fasted), or if it has a double vowel (Feel – feeling – feeler; brief – briefer – briefly), or if the suffix begins with a consonant (Plan – planning – planner, but planless; fit – fitter – fittest – fitting – fitted, but fitful – fitness; star – starred – starring, but starless – starlet.

Exceptions: Bus – buses, gas – gases, wool – woollen.

5. When adverbs in —ly are formed from words ending in —l or —ll, the Ending should always be —lly.

Examples:

Full – fully, beautiful – beautifully, level – levelly, shrill – shrilly.

6. Words ending in a single 'e' drop the 'e'. When adding a suffix beginning with a vowel, and retain it when adding a suffix beginning with a consonant.

Examples:

Love – loving – lovable, but lovely; Bore – boring – bored, but boredom

Exceptions: Those words ending in '-ce' or '-ge', e.g.

Notice – noticeable; courage – courageous.

Other exceptions are: awe – awful, judge – judgment, true – truly, due – duly, dye – dyeing, whole – wholly.

7. All the words ending in 'le' drop the 'le' when adding 'ly' to form the adverb.

#### Examples:

Gentle – gently, able – ably, notable – notably.

- 8. The verbs advise, devise, license, practise, prophesy all take 'c' in the noun form: some advice, that device, your licence, this practice.
- 9. Some monosyllabic words lose an '1' in forming certain compounds.

All: Almost, alone, already, almighty, altogether, always,

Full: Beautiful, careful, tactful, hopeful, fulfil etc.

Still: Distil, instil.

Till: Until

Well: Welcome, welfare

There are dozens that keep the double 'll' e.g nightfall, pitfall, waterfall, Snowball, recall, install, mis-spell, retell, foretell, undersell, windmill etc.

10. Verbs ending in 'c', like 'frolic', 'mimic', 'panic', 'traffic', add a 'k' before '-ed', '-y', '-ing', '-er' to keep the 'c' hard in sound,

#### Examples:

Mimic- mimicked; panic - panicking – panicky;

picnic- picnicking- picnicker.

11. Nouns that are derived from verbs ending in 'te' usually take 'tion'.

Arbitrate - arbitration

Nouns that are derived from verbs ending in 'ss', 'se' or 'mit' usually take 'sion'

Admit - admission Discuss - discussion Precise - precision

12. For short sounding words (one syllable words) that do not end in 'e', Double the last letter when adding '-ed', '-er' or '-ing'.

Examples:

Ban - banned; jog - jogger; fit - fitting.

- 13. Vowels that can be doubled are 'e' (been) and 'o' (moon) and Sometimes 'u' (vacuum); 'a' and 'i' are not doubled in English words.
- 14. Consonants that can be doubled in the middle of a word are b, d, f, g, l, m, n, r, s, t and z.
- 15. 'Q' is always followed by 'u' in English words. Example:
  Quotation, question, and query.
- 16. No English words end in 'j' or 'v'.
- 17. If 'g' or 'h' come together, 'g' is always before 'h', e.g. eight, enough.
  - 18. 'ck' never starts a word.

## TROUBLE SOME SPELLINGS

A

Absence	Academic
Accidentally	Accommodate
Address	Adolescence
	Advisable
Advantageous	
Aerial	Agreeable
Alm and	Ache
Almost	All right
Apologize	Argument
Asylum	Atheist
Attendance	Autumn
Awkward	
	В
Bachelor	Balloon
Banquet	Bazaar
Beggar	Benefited
Biscuit	Bomb
Breathe	Buried
Business	Bicycle
	C
Calendar	Campaign
Canoe	Caravan
Castle	Catalogue
Cathedral	Cease
Characteristic	Charcoal
Chocolate	Cigarette
Column	Committee
Conscientious	Continuous
Correspondence	Christmas

Curiosity	Courtesy
Colonel	
	D
Debtor	Decease
Deceive	Definite
Delicious	Dependant
Dilemma	Discipline
Dwarf	
	E
Efficiency	Eccentric
Elbow	Embarrass
Emphasize	Entertainment
Environment	Essence
Exaggerate	Escape
Extravagant	Extremely
Extraordinary	
	F
Fascinate	Fatigue
February	Fiery
Finally	Foreign
Funeral	Furious
	G
Guarantee	Gaiety
Generosity	Genuine
Gorgeous	Ghost
Government	Grammar
Gauge	

	Н
Handkerchief	Harass
Hypocrisy	Humorous
Hundred	Hurriedly
Hyphen	
	I
Identity	Illiterate
Illuminate	Immediately
Influential	Interference
Invincible	Irresistible
Irritable	
	J
Jaundice	Jealousy
Jeweller	Juice
Juvenile	
	TZ.
I/	K
Keenness	Kidnapper
Knowledge	
	T
Laboratory	Languaga
Laboratory	Laziness Laziness
Laughter Lieutenant	Leisure
Listen	
	Livelihood
Loosely Luxuriant	Luxury
Luxurrant	
M	
Magazine	Magnificent
Maintenance	Marriage
	THAITIU50

Masculine	Massacre
Mathematics	Medicine
Melancholy	Murmur
Millionaire	Mimicked
Miniature	Mischievous
Miscellaneous	Mysterious
Mystic	Misled
Monotonous	Mountaineer
Moustache	
	N
	Nauseous
Neighbour	Niece
Neuter	Neither
Nymph	Ninety
Ninetieth	Numbness
Nuisance	
	O
Obedient	Obvious
Occasion	Omitted
Omission	Opportunity
Original	Organization
Orchestra	
	P
Package	Pageant
Pamphlet	Passenger
Pastime	Permanent
Perseverance	Persuade
Photograph	Picnicking
Picturesque	Precipice
Privilege	Professor
Pronunciation	Propaganda

Quarrelling Quay Query Queue Quintessence  R Ransack Receive Relieve Renunciation Repentance Repetition Representative Respectability Responsibility Restaurant		
QuarrellingQuayQueryQueueQuintessenceRRansackReceiveRelieveRenunciationRepentanceRepetitionRepresentativeRespectability		
Query Quintessence  R Ransack Receive Relieve Repentance Repertative Respectability		2 111
Quintessence  R Ransack Receive Relieve Renunciation Repentance Representative Respectability		`
Ransack Receive Relieve Renunciation Repentance Repetition Representative Respectability	Queue	
RansackReceiveRelieveRenunciationRepentanceRepetitionRepresentativeRespectability		Quintessence
Relieve Renunciation Repentance Repetition Representative Respectability		
Repentance Repetition Representative Respectability		
Representative Respectability		Relieve
	-	_
Responsibility Restaurant	Respectability	
	Restaurant	Responsibility
Revolution Ridicule	Ridicule	Revolution
Rogue Routine	Routine	Rogue
Rhyme Rhythm	Rhythm	Rhyme
S	S	
Sacrifice Sadness	Sadness	Sacrifice
Psalm Scarcely		Psalm
Schooner Schooner	Schooner	Scholar
Scrupulous Secretary	Secretary	Scrupulous
Scene Separate	Separate	Scene
Sergeant Seventieth	Seventieth	Sergeant
Shining Simultaneous	Simultaneous	Shining
Sincerely Scissors	Scissors	Sincerely
Sixtieth Skilful	Skilful	Sixtieth
Smoky Solicitor	Solicitor	Smoky
Sovereign Specimen	Specimen	Sovereign
Squirrel Strength	Strength	Squirrel
Studying Succeed	Succeed	-
Superstitious Suspicion	Suspicion	
	Syllable	Swollen
Swonen	Scythe	Synonym

T	
Tactics	Temporarily
Temperament	Thorough
Together	Tomorrow
Tournament	Tortoise
Tranquillity	Transferred
Traveler	Treasure
Truly	Triumph
Twentieth	Tyranny
	$\mathbf{U}$
Ugliness	Unanimous
Unnatural	Undoubtedly
Until	Unusual
Usually	Utilize
	$\mathbf{V}$
Vaccinate	Valuable
Vehicle	Velvet
Villain	Vivid
Vocabulary	Voluntary
Volcano	Virgin
	$\mathbf{W}$
Wafer	Walnut
Wednesday	Whistle
Wound	Writer
Writing	Written
	$\mathbf{Y}$
Yield	Yesterday
Yacht	
	<b>Z</b>
Zealous	Zenith

#### **BRITISH SPELLING AND AMERICAN SPELLING**

(England and America are two countries separated by a common language.)

There are a number of differences between the spellings of words in American English and that of British English. Some of the most important of these are listed below:

- 1. Some verbs ending in '1' and 'p', which in British English double their final consonant before —ing, -ed and —er /-or ,do not do so in American English: for example, British English travelling, kidnapped, equalled, counsellor, but American traveling, kidnaped, equaled, counselor. This difference applies to certain nouns and adjectives also: for example the normal American spellings carburetor (British carburettor) and woolen (British woollen).
- 2. With verbs that may be spelt –ise or –ize, Americans prefer –ize. Most words which in British English end in –our end in –or in American English, e.g. color, humor. Saviour and glamour are exceptions.
- 3. Many words, which in British English end in '-re', are spelt '-er' by Americans: center, theater, fiber, specter, meager. Exceptions to this are generally words ending in '-cre' or '-gre': acre, massacre, agre are correct in both British and American English.
- 4. Among the other words which are spelt differently in American English are axe (Amer. Ax), catalogue (Amer. Catalog), cheque (Amer. Check), plough (Amer. Plow), programme (Amer. Program), sceptic (Amer. Skeptic), tyre (Amer. Tire).

BRITISH ENGLISH	AMERICAN ENGLISH
adviser	advisor
analyse	analyze
apologise/apologize	apologize
axe	axe/ax
behaviour	behavior
catalogue	catalog/catalogue
centre	center
cheque	check
colour	color
councillor	councilor
counsellor	counselor
defence	defense
dialogue	dialog/dialogue
favour	favor
favourite	favorite
enrol	enroll
fulfil	fulfill
grey	gray
honour	honor
humour	humor
instal	install

jeweller jeweler jewellery jewelery kerb (edge of curb pavement) labeled labelled labor labour liquor liqueur license litre liter marvellous marvelous metre meter neighbour neighbor organize/organise organize plough plow practise (verb) practice (verb and noun) practice (noun) Program programme pajamas pyjamas quarreled quarrelled realize realise/realize signaled signalled skillful skilful theater theatre through, thru

through

travelled, -lling	traveled, -ling
tyre (on a wheel)	tire
BRITISH ENGLISH	AMERICAN ENGLISH
<b>Buildings in General</b>	Buildings in General
block of flats	apartment building
first floor	second floor
flat	apartment
ground floor	first floor
lift	elevator
Household Furniture	Household Furniture
camp bed	cot
chest of drawers	dresser
cot	crib
cupboard	closet
curtains	drapes
dresser (for plates)	hutch
roller blind	shade
standard lamp	floor lamp
In the Kitchen	In the Kitchen

bread bin bread box

clothes peg clothes pin

cooker stove

cutlery silverware

flex electric cord

hoover vacuum cleaner

(to hoover) (to vacuum)

liquidizer / blender blender

napkin / serviette napkin

tap faucet

tea towel dish towel

tin opener can opener

wash up do the dishes

washing up liquid dish washing liquid

waste bin waste basket

worktop counter

Fruits and vegetables Fruits and vegetables

aubergine eggplant

beetroot beet

spring onion green onion

courgette zucchini

marrow squash

runner bean string bean

Meat Meat

minced meat ground meat (hamburger)

Snacks Snacks

biscuits cookies

chips French fries

crisps chips

sweets candies

sweetshop candy store

Automobile / Car Automobile / Car

accelerator gas pedal

aerial antenna

bonnet hood

boot trunk

gear level gear shift

handbrake emergency break

indicator switch turn signal / blinker

mudguard splash guard (mud flaps )

petrol cap gas cap

puncture blow-out (flat)

rear light tail-light

side-light parking-light

windscreen windshield

wing fender

wing mirror rearview mirror

Motor Vehicles Motor Vehicles

coach bus

estate car station wagon

lorry truck

sallon sedan

**Near Roads Near Roads** 

car park parking lot

crossroads intersection

cycle path bicycle route

diversion detour

flyover overpass

lay by rest area

middle lane center lane

motorway freeway / highway

pavement sidewalk

pedestrian / crossing crosswalk

roundabout traffic circle

sleeping policeman speed bump

slip road on ramp

subway underpass

underground subway

**Driving Driving** 

change up into gear shift into gear

overtake pass

reverse down back down

Shops / Stores Shops / Stores

bookshop bookstore

chemist's chemist drugstore / pharmacy

fishmonger's druggist / pharmacist

greengrocer's fishstore

grocer's fruit and vegetable stand

jeweller's jewelry store

newsagent's news dealer

off-licence liquor store

stationer's stationary / office supply

**Clothes Clothes** 

anorak parka

braces suspenders

dinner jacket tuxedo

dressing gown robe

polo neck jumper turtleneck sweater

suspenders garters

tights pantyhose

trousers pants

turn-ups cuffed pants

vest undershirt

waistcoat vest

Shoes Shoes

court shoes pumps

flip-flops thongs

football boots soccer shoes

plimsolls sneakers

trainers sneakers / tennis shoes

wellington boots rubber boots

Travel Travel

buffet car café car

engine driver engineer

hire / rent a car rent a car (hire a person)

luggage trolley baggage cart

railway carriage railroad car

railway station railroad station

return ticket round-trip ticket

single ticket one way ticket

Telephone	Telephone
dialing / STD code	area code
directory enquiries	information
it's engaged / busy	it's busy
reverse the charges	call collect
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous
autumn	fall
bank note	bill
candyfloss	cotton candy
carrycot	porta crib
fortnight / two weeks	two weeks
high street	main street
hire purchase	installment plan
holiday	vacation
interval	intermission
парру	diaper
petrol	gas
petrol / filling station	gas station
polling day	election day
caretaker	janitor
postbox / letterbox	mailbox
postman	mailman

postcode zip code queue line rubber eraser rubbish garbage secondary school high school sellotape Scotch tape skipping rope jump rope term semester university university / college wardrobe closet (TV) aerial (TV) antenna

garbage / trash can

dustbin

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