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| **Spelling Rules** |
| **🕮**The English language has developed over the course of more than 1,400 years and has borrowed from many other language and dialects, from Ancient Greek to Hindi and Japanese. As a result, the spellings of words don’t always follow a consistent pattern and many spellings must be learnt individually: through writing practice and regular reading. However, there are some general rules which can help you to remember key spellings. |
| 1. ‘**i before e except after c’**:   Examples: *ie* in bel*ie*ve, f*ie*rce, d*ie*, fr*ie*nd  *ei* after c in dec*ei*ve, c*ei*ling, rec*ei*pt, perc*ei*ve  WARNING: There are some exceptions e.g. suffi**cie**nt, th**ei**r, w**ei**gh, n**ei**ghbour, glacier |
| 1. **Verbs ending with a vowel plus -l**   If the verb ends with a vowel plus -l (as in travel or equal), then you need to double the l before adding -ed and -ing in British English: *e.g. travel – travelled; distil – distilled; equal – eaualled.* |
| 1. **Adding endings to words that end in -y**   When adding endings to words that end with a consonant plus -y, change the final y to i. For example: pretty: prettier, prettiest; beauty: beautiful |
| 1. **Adding -ful or -fully**   The suffix -ful can form nouns or adjectives, like plateful or cheerful. A common mistake is to spell this type of word with a double l at the end. Note that it’s always spelled with just one *e.g. dreadful, faithful, skilful, powerful*  The related ending –fully forms adverbs. Remember that this suffix is always spelled with two l’s: e.g. dreadfully, faithfully, skilfully, powerfully. |

**Common Misspellings**

🕮 The following is a list of commonly misspelled words based on a study by the Oxford English Dictionary. It is important to learn these words using the hints below.

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| [accommodate](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/accommodate)/[accommodation](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/accommodation) two **c**s, two **m**s  [appearance](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/appearance) ends with **-ance**  [argument](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/argument) no **e** after the **u**  [beginning](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/beginning) double **n** before the **-ing**  [business](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/business) begins with **busi-**  [completely](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/completely) ends with **-ely** |

environment, government Both have a ‘**silent’ n** in the middle

definitely ‘inite’ not ‘anite’ – sound it out: de-fi-nite

disappear  **Two ps** not one

independent Ends in ent not ant

necessary One c, two s

[occasion](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/occasion) two cs one s

possession two lots of double s

repetition the e is repeated

successful two cs, two s, one

unfortunately remember the ‘ate’ in ‘ately’

***Spelling*– Key Knowledge**

**How to Learn Spellings**

1. Look, say, cover, write, check
2. Break the word down into **syllable chunks** *e.g. de-fi-nite-ly*
3. Use **stories** and **mnemonics**: *e.g. the rat needed to be sepa****rat****ed from the cheese, rhythm =* ***r****hythm* ***h****elps* ***y****our* ***t****wo* ***h****ips* ***m****ove.*
4. Look for smaller words which are ‘inside’ bigger words *e.g. the word ‘finite’ (limited in size) is inside the word de****finite****ly. Government contains the word ‘govern’.*