



USBORNE BETTER ENGLISH

Improve your Spelling

with lots of tests and puzzles

Internet
Linked



Internet links

Throughout this book we have recommended websites where you can find spelling tips, exercises and games. To visit the sites, go to the **Usborne Quicklinks Website** where you will find links to all the sites.

1. Go to **www.usborne-quicklinks.com**
2. Type the keywords for this book:
improve your spelling
3. Type the page number of the link you want to visit.
4. Click on the links to go to the recommended sites.

Here are some of the things you can do on the websites recommended in this book:

- Try online quizzes to test your knowledge
- Play games and try to spot words spelled incorrectly
- Find spelling rhymes, tips and test-yourself activities

Site availability

The links in Usborne Quicklinks are regularly reviewed and updated, but occasionally you may get a message that a site is unavailable. This might be temporary, so try again later, or even the next day.

Websites do occasionally close down and when this happens, we will replace them with new links in Usborne Quicklinks. Sometimes we add extra links too, if we think they are useful. So when you visit Usborne Quicklinks, the links may be slightly different from those described in your book.

COMPUTER NOT ESSENTIAL

If you don't have access to the Internet, don't worry. This book is a complete, fun beginner's guide to spelling on its own.

Safety on the Internet

Ask your parent's or guardian's permission before you connect to the Internet and make sure you follow these simple rules:

- Never give out information about yourself, such as your real name, address, phone number or the name of your school.
- If a site asks you to log in or register by typing your name or email address, ask permission from an adult first.

What you need

To visit the websites you need a computer with an Internet connection and a web browser (the software that lets you look at information on the Internet). Some sites need extra programs (plug-ins) to play sound or show videos or animations.

If you go to a site and do not have the necessary plug-in, a message will come up on the screen. There is usually a link to click on to download the plug-in. For more information about plug-ins, go to Usborne Quicklinks and click on "Net Help".

Note for parents and guardians

The websites described in this book are regularly reviewed, but the content of a website may change at any time and Usborne Publishing is not responsible for the content on any website other than its own.

We recommend that children are supervised while on the Internet, that they do not use Internet chat rooms, and that you use Internet filtering software to block unsuitable material. Please ensure that your children read and follow the safety guidelines printed above. For more information, see the Net Help area on the Usborne Quicklinks Website.

Improve your Spelling

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Niether or neither? Pursue or persue? After using this book you will have no doubt which are the correct spellings. Don't despair if you think you are a bad speller. Although some find it

easier than others, spelling is a skill that can be learned. The fun tests in this book will give you lots of spelling practice. There are also guidelines to help you avoid making mistakes.

User's guide



Each double page in this book focuses on particular spelling problems.

Read through the summary of guidelines at the top of each left-hand page, then test your spelling by trying the puzzles which follow. The book has not been designed for writing in, so you will need some paper and a pencil or pen for jotting down your answers. You can check them on pages 28-32. Don't worry if you make mistakes. Just work through the book, then go back to the beginning and try again. You will definitely improve next time.



Watch out for boxes like this. These contain words for you to learn and test yourself on. Some will be new to you, so have a dictionary handy to check up on what they mean and how to use them.

Why is good spelling necessary?

Spelling is an important skill for many reasons. Above all, it is vital to be able to spell correctly so that you do not confuse your reader. For instance, there are certain words (called homophones) which sound the same, but which have different spellings and meanings.

The cereal was advertised on television.



The serial was advertised on television.



Other spellings are so similar that even a small mistake may make it difficult for your reader to understand you.

The desert was a generous helping of lemon meringue pie.



The dessert was a generous helping of lemon meringue pie.



As your spelling gets better, your writing style will also improve, because you will be able to write with confidence, using a wide range of words to express yourself.

Where does English spelling come from?

Modern English is a mixture of languages. Long ago, the Ancient Britons spoke Celtic, but over the centuries each of the peoples that invaded Britain contributed words from their own languages. For example, *skirt* comes from Old Norse, *index* from Latin, and *garage* from French. More recently, English

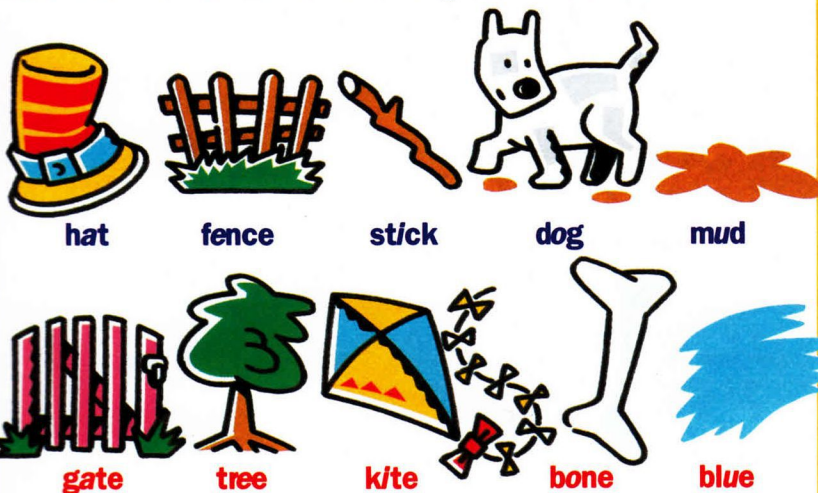
has been affected by influences such as the growth of travel and trade, the World Wars and the rise of broadcasting. For instance, did you know that the word *shampoo* comes from India, *studio* from Italy, and *parade* from Spain? English is still changing today, in order to express new ideas and experiences.



USEFUL TERMS

What are vowels?

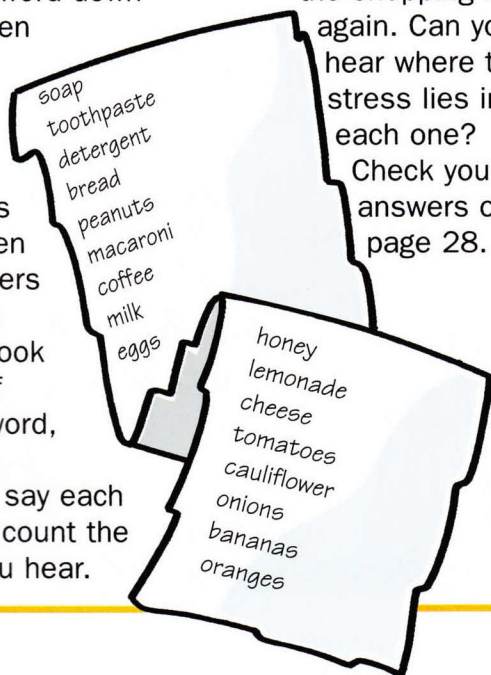
The five letters *a*, *e*, *i*, *o* and *u* are known as vowels. When *y* sounds like "i" (as in *sky*) or "e" (as in *jolly*), it is also considered to be a vowel. The other letters of the alphabet, including *y* as it sounds in *yes*, are called consonants. Each vowel has two sounds: short and long. Say the words below. The blue words have short vowel sounds. The red words have long vowel sounds.



What are syllables?

Many words have more than one vowel sound. Each part of a word which has a separate vowel sound is called a syllable. For example, *dig* has one syllable, *mar/ket* has two syllables, *ex/pen/sive* has three and *in/vis/i/ble* has four. Breaking a word down into syllables often makes spelling easier.

Try counting the syllables in the words on this shopping list, then check your answers with the ones on page 28. Don't look at the number of vowels in each word, as this can be misleading. Just say each word aloud, and count the vowel sounds you hear.



What is stress?

When you say words of more than one syllable, you usually put more emphasis on one syllable than the others. For example, *market*, *invisible*, *expensive*. This emphasis is called stress, or accent.

Read out the words on the shopping list again. Can you hear where the stress lies in each one?

Check your answers on page 28.

What makes a spelling correct?

The idea of "correct" spelling is not very old. Until the 18th century, people spelled words however they liked. They even thought nothing of spelling a word in several different ways in the same piece of writing. When the invention of the printing press made written material available to large numbers of people, it became clear that spelling needed to be standardized, so everyone knew exactly what a writer meant. The first English dictionary was written by Samuel Johnson and published in 1755. But the patterns he defined were not always consistent or logical. So today, some words are more difficult to spell than others.



English has continued to change since then, as new words have entered the language and others have dropped out of use. Also, the spelling, pronunciation and meaning of some words have gradually altered. This is why there are differences between British, American and Australian English. You will find that a few words can still be spelled in more than one way (such as *gipsy/gypsy*). In these cases, use the spelling you find easiest to remember. But if you are surprised by a spelling, always check it. It may be misspelled, or even be a different word. For example, *passed* and *past* do not mean the same thing.

a e i o u a e Vowel varieties i o u a e i o u a

Vowel sounds are often spelled in unexpected ways. For example, a long “e” is spelled by *i* in *marine*, but by *y* in *tiny*. Also, many vowel sounds are spelled by two vowels together. For example, *tread* (short “e”

spelled *ea*) or *float* (long “o” spelled *oa*). The most common ways of spelling vowel sounds are set out for you here. Look at these examples, then test yourself on the puzzles. You can find the answers on page 28.

a short	<i>cat</i>	e short	<i>set</i>	<i>dead</i>	u short	<i>duck</i>	<i>come</i>	<i>young</i>
long	<i>plate</i> <i>paid</i> <i>may</i>	long	<i>eat</i>	<i>very</i> <i>demon</i>	long	<i>clue</i>	<i>food</i>	<i>prune</i>
	<i>steak</i> <i>weight</i>		<i>feel</i>	<i>sardine</i>		<i>fruit</i>	<i>screw</i>	<i>do</i>
	<i>prey</i> <i>gauge</i>		<i>piece</i>	<i>ceiling</i>		<i>coupon</i>		

o short	<i>pop</i>	<i>wasp</i>	<i>laurel</i>	<i>cough</i>	i short	<i>fit</i>	<i>syrup</i>	<i>build</i>
long	<i>stone</i>	<i>soap</i>	<i>toe</i>	<i>throw</i>	long	<i>pie</i>	<i>lime</i>	<i>sky</i> <i>height</i>

An eye for an i

Only a few words end in *i*. These are mostly from other languages. Can you spell some

from the clues below? The first letter of each word is given to help you.

- | | | | | | |
|--|----------|---|----------|---------------------------------|----------|
| 1 Two-piece swimsuit | B | 4 Writing and drawings on public walls | G | 7 Snow-sport footwear | S |
| 2 Trip to see animals in the wild | S | 5 Car with driver | T | 8 Short skirt | M |
| 3 Thrown at weddings | C | 6 Long, thin pasta | S | 9 Yellow-brown shade | K |
| | | | | 10 Type of spicy sausage | S |

Double trouble

Can you guess the half-spelled words in these speech bubbles? Two vowels are missing from each gap.



u a e i o u a e i o u a e i o u a e i o u a e i o

One vowel short

Which vowel is missing from each of these limericks?

There _nce was a man with the n_ti_n,
T_live_n a b_at_n the _cean,
But his p_r little daughter,
Quite hated the water,
Because _f the up and d_wn m_ti_n.



1



There was an old woman from B_te,
Who played o_t of t_ne on the fl_te,
The noise was so bad
That it drove her q_ite mad
And left her _nable to toot.

2

There once w_s _ brown cow n_med D_isy,
Who w_s pretty but tot_lly l_zy,
She'd gr_ze in her field,
But no milk would she yield,
_nd this drove the f_rmer quite cr_zy.



3



There was a young woman named Lizz_.
Who kept feeling terribl_dizz_.
She consulted a doctor,
But he onl_ mocked her,
And said that he found it a m_ster_.

4

There was a young g_rl from Tyree,
Who couldn't count further than three,
She tr_ed and she tr_ed -
But _n va_n. "Oh," she cr_ed,
"Four, f_ve, s_x, _s the problem, you see."



5

Th_r_ onc_ was a young boy named Mik_.
Who rod_a long way on a bik_.
His l_gs got so sor_.
H_ could cycl_no mor_.
So inst_ad had to g_t off and hik_.

6



Silent e

Some words end in an e which you do not pronounce (such as *same*, *concrete* and *arrive*). This silent e is important because it gives the vowel that comes before a long sound. For example, if you add a silent e to the ends of *hat*, *bit* and *pet*, they become *hate*, *bite* and *Pete*.

1 Take the silent e off each word below. Which words have you now spelled? Do these new words have short or long vowel sounds?

use	note	fate	spite	made
hope	rate	kite	cute	ripe

2 Now add a silent e onto these words, and listen how the sound of each one changes.

bar	rag	hug	car	fir
sag	far	par	wag	her

3 Which vowel is missing from each of these words? Do they have short or long vowel sounds?

Chin_se	sh_pe	wh_te	teleph_ne
conf_se	al_ne	prod_ce	al_ve
supp_se	compl_te	esc_pe	h_me
resc_e	comb_ne	b_the	appet_te
celebr_te	am_se	sev_re	supr_me



Here are some words in which the letter y acts as a vowel. First, use a dictionary to check any meanings you aren't sure of. Next, test your spelling by reading, covering, then writing each word.

TIDY	LYRIC	STYLE
GOODBYE	DYNAMITE	TYPICAL
SYSTEM	CYCLE	SATISFY
DRY	EYE	BUTTERFLY
HYSTERICAL	CAPACITY	RHYTHM
LYNCH	SYMMETRY	DYNASTY
MERCY	TYRANNY	NYLON
GYMNASIUM	HYPNOTIZE	APPLY
MYTHOLOGY	NAVY	OCCUPY
CYMBALS	SUPPLY	SYRINGE
PYTHON	READY	SHY
SYMPHONY	TYRANT	DYING
EMERGENCY	HYMN	UNITY
CRYSTAL	LUXURY	RHYME
TYPEWRITER	PRETTY	LYNX
PYRAMID	CENTURY	SYNTHETIC
ANONYMOUS	IDYLLIC	TYCOON

ies ves es oes Puzzling plurals ies ves es oes ies

The most usual way to make a singular noun (naming word) plural is to add an s. For example, *word/words*. But there are some other ways of making plurals which are explained below.

You should NEVER use an

ies If a noun ends in *y*, look at the letter before the *y*. If it is a vowel, just add an *s* (as in *monkey/monkeys*). If it is a consonant, change *y* to *i* and add *es* (as in *baby/babies*).

ves To form the plurals of nouns ending in *ff*, add an *s* (as in *cuffs, cliffs*). But for words ending in *f* or *fe*, change the *f* or *fe* to *v* and add *es* (as in *sheaf/sheaves, knife/knives*). Exceptions are: *dwarfs, chiefs, griefs, roofs, proofs, beliefs* and *safes*. Three words can have either spelling: *wharfs/wharves, hoofs/hooves, scarfs/scarves*.

apostrophe (') to make a word plural. Apostrophes show the owner of something (such as *my daughter's books*). They also mark missing letters. For example, the *o* in *are not* is replaced by an apostrophe in *aren't*.

es To make the plural of nouns which end in *ch, sh, s, ss, x* or *z*, simply add *es*. For example, *torches, dishes, buses, kisses, boxes* and *waltzes*.

oes To make the plural of words ending in *o*, add *s* if there is a vowel before the final *o* (as in *zoo*) or if the word is to do with music (such as *solo* and *soprano*). Also add *s* to *disco* and *photo* (*discos, photos*) and names of peoples, such as *Filipinos*. But when there is a consonant before the final *o* (and the words do not fall into the above categories), add *es*. For example, *potatoes*.

Spies in the skies

Two rival organizations have given their secret agents passwords which end in *y*. One organization's passwords can be made plural by adding an *s*, while the passwords of the


other change to *ies*. The agents cannot work out who belongs to which organization. Can you help them by sorting out the passwords into two lists?





oes ies ves es oes ies ves es oes ies ves es oes ies



O! What now?


Words which end in *o* have been replaced in this poem with pictures. Can you spell the plurals of these things?





IF I WERE A MARTIAN AND I LIVED IN OUTER SPACE
I'D LIKE TO VISIT EARTH ONE DAY AND LOOK AROUND THE PLACE


I'D LIKE TO MEET AN  AND VISIT HIS 

THEN TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA TO SEE A  



I'D ROAM THE VAST AND GRASSY PLAINS TO FIND THE 

AND TREMBLE AT THE BOTTOM OF A FIERY 


I'D SUFFER FROM  BITES IN HOT EXOTIC LANDS

AND I'D LEARN TO PLAY  AND I'D MARCH WITH BIG BRASS BANDS

I'D HAVE A LITTLE VEGETABLE PATCH WHERE I COULD DIG AND SOW

THEN WATCH  AND  PLANTS TAKE ROOT AND GROW

AND JUST IN CASE ONE DAY I SHOULD FORGET THE THINGS I'D DONE

I'D BE SURE TO TAKE A  OF EACH AND EVERY ONE

SO WHEN THE TIME CAME TO RETURN TO WORK ON MY SPACE-STATION
I SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE THESE SOUVENIRS OF MY EARTHLY VACATION

F words

In these sentences, words ending in *f*, *fe* and *ff* are singular, but should be plural. Can you spell their plural forms correctly?

- 1 It took him three **puff** to blow out the candles on his birthday cake.
- 2 "Put on **scarf**, take **handkerchief**, and behave **yourself**," their mother said.
- 3 The **hoof** of the galloping horses thundered over the race course.
- 4 Deciduous trees shed their **leaf** every year.
- 5 The team played badly in both **half** of the match.
- 6 The **thief** blew open all the **safe** and escaped with treasures worth millions.
- 7 It is said that cats have **nine life**.
- 8 The **shelf** were stacked with **loaf** of bread of all shapes and sizes.
- 9 At night in the mountains, they could hear **wolf** howling.
- 10 King Henry VIII had **six wife**.
- 11 Some very modern cars come with **sun-roof**.

Singularly confused

Words that were originally from other languages often have strange plurals. Do you know how to spell the plurals of the red words in these sentences?

- 1 I fell asleep on the bus and ended up at the **terminus**.
- 2 In the basket of mushrooms I had picked was a poisonous **fungus**.
- 3 Another name for a grub that turns into an insect is a **larva**.
- 4 My birthday cake was a huge, creamy, chocolate **gateau**.
- 5 I looked at the test and realized we had been taught the wrong **syllabus**.
- 6 CO₂ is the chemical **formula** for carbon dioxide.
- 7 The worst thing to do in a **crisis** is panic.
- 8 People's lives can be changed by the **medium** of television.

Plural puzzler

There are a few words which have irregular plurals. For example, one *louse* becomes several *lice*. How many other irregular plurals do you know?

Some nouns, such as *sheep*, stay the same in both the singular and plural. How many more words can you think of like this?

Most sounds in English can be spelled in more than one way. So choosing the right spelling for a particular word can be confusing.

k The sound “k” as in *kid* is sometimes known as hard c. It can be spelled as in *cat*, *kick*, *accordion*, *echo* and *grotesque*.

air The sound “air” can be spelled as in *chair*, *share*, *bear*, *there*, *their*, and *aerial*.

sh “sh” sounds can be spelled as in *sure*, *rush*, *option*, *issue*, *social*, *anxious* and *chef*.

shun A “shun” sound is mostly spelled as in *action*, *mansion*, *mission*, or *complexion*. But watch out for *cushion*, *fashion*, *ocean*, *musician* and *suspicion*.

zhun “zhun” sound is always spelled **sion** (as in *occasion*), except in words which describe nationality. In these words, “zhun” is spelled **sian** (as in *Asian*, *Malaysian*, *Polynesian*).

er/uh The ends of many English words aren’t stressed, so differences between them can be hard to hear. For example, the final syllables of the words *farmer*, *similar*, *camera*, *theatre*, and *actor* just sound like “er” or “uh”. The sound “er” also occurs in the middle of words. In these cases, it can be spelled as in *serve*, *earth*, *bird*, *word*, *purse*, *journey* or *February*.

Conquer kicking k

Kevin spells all “k” sounds with only the letter k. Can you correct his spelling?

I like

Snakes and Hrokodiles
Hearing my voice eko
Pikniking in the park
Books about shipwreks
Doing magik triks
Klimbing trees



I dislike

Akting in skool plays
Singing in the koir
Losing my train tiket
Stomak ake
Kornflakes, chiken and brokoli
Kemistry lessons



Are you an air-head

There are eleven spelling mistakes in this letter. Can you spot them?



Dear Gran,

My first time on an ereoplane was really exciting - when I'm a millionair I'm going to have my own private jet. My suitcase was bulging - Dad says I'll never have time to where all the clothes and pears of shoes I've brought. But I still managed to forget my hare brush, and Sue's forgotten her teddy bare.

We have a lovely room to shair that looks out on the sea - their are some rair birds to spot along this part of the coast. We're going to a funfare tomorrow.

Take cair - we'll see you soon,

Love,

Donna XXXXXXXXX

air zhun uh k shun er air zhun uh k shun er

Er ...? Uh ...?

Forgetful Rachel has written two lists to help her remember things. But she has forgotten

how to spell "er" and "uh" sounds. Which letters are missing?

THINGS TO BUY:

pizz_, sug_, butt_,
fl_r, tun_, banan_s,
hamburg_s, marm_lade,
chocolate flav_ milkshake,
writing pap_ and env_lopes,
an eras_, a rul_ and a pair
of sciss_s,
2 yards of p_ple ribbon,
film for my camer_,
a package of cake mixt_e,
a batt_y for my calculat_,
a b_thday present
for Samanth_

Rememb_
to take my
p_se!



THINGS TO DO:

- 1 Cut out some pict_es of famous act_s for my project.
- 2 Sign up for the class trip to the theat_.
- 3 Ask my next-door neighb_ if I can look for my basketball in his garden.
- 4 See if my sist_ will let me wear her new dress on Sat_day.
- 5 Remind Amand_ that it's our t_n this week to look after the _thw_ms in the science room. (Yuk!)

Be sure of sh, shun and zhun

Can you complete this newspaper article by spelling a "sh", "shun" or "zhun" sound to replace each numbered gap?

TRAIN CRASH AND CARRY!

There was a colli..1.. at Spellham Station this morning between two express trains. An electri..2.. carried out an investiga..3.. and reported that an explo..4.. had destroyed signals at a junc..5.. down the line. No one was hurt, but in the confu..6.. two bags of ca..7.. were stolen from one of the trains. The police are an..8..ous to solve this crime quickly, and are appealing for informa..9.. They have i..10..ued a descrip..11.. of two men seen earlier on the platform, who are now under suspi..12.. One has a mousta..13..e and was disguised as a railway offi..14..al. The other had a worried expre..15.. and a bag with the ini..16..als S.H. on it. They both left together in a ..17..auffeur-driven car.



You will almost certainly have seen words spelled with letters that you don't pronounce. These are often letters that used to be pronounced in Old English. For instance, before the 10th century, the *k* in *knot*, the *g* in *gnaw* and the *l* in *folk* were all pronounced. Over the years, the pronunciation of some words changed, while their spellings stayed the same.

So some letters became silent. Other silent letters, such as the *b* in *doubt* and the *p* in *receipt*, were deliberately added during the Renaissance by English scholars. They were trying to make certain words look more like the Latin words they had originally come from.

Here are some common silent letters, showing when they occur:

b "silent" *b* sometimes occurs after *m* at the end of a syllable or word (as in *plumber* or *climb*). It is also found in *debt*, *doubt*, *subtle*.

c can be silent after *s* (as in *science* and *scent*).

k before *n* (as in *knife*, *knot* and *knitting*).

g often comes before *n* (as in *gnome* and *sign*).

h can follow *w* (as in *wheel*), *g* (as in *ghostly*), and *r* (as in *rhinoceros*). It is also found at the start of a word (as in *honor*), between vowels (as in *vehicle*), and after *x*, as in *exhibit*.

l is sometimes silent before *d*, *k* or *m* (as in *should*, *walk* or *salmon*).

n can be silent after *m* (as in *hymn*).

w is sometimes silent in front of *h* (as in *who*) and also before *r* at the start of a word (as in *wrath* and *wreck*).

p is silent before *s*, *n* or *t* in words which come from Greek (such as *pneumatic*). It can also be silent after *s*, as in *raspberry*.

s silent in *island*, *isle*, *aisle*

t is sometimes silent after *s* (as in *fasten*).

Tongue twister teasers

Which silent letter is missing from each of these nonsense tongue twisters?

How quickly can you say each one?

1. We wish we were w_ispering w_ales in w_ite w_irling waters.



2. _nomes, _nats and _nus all _nash and _naw _narled nutshells.



3. Fo_k wa_k cha_ky paths ca_mly sta_king quiet qua_mless sa_mon.

4. The _night who _new the _nack of _nitting _nots _nelt with a _nobbly _napsack on the _noll.

5. The clim_ing plum_er's thum_grew num_.

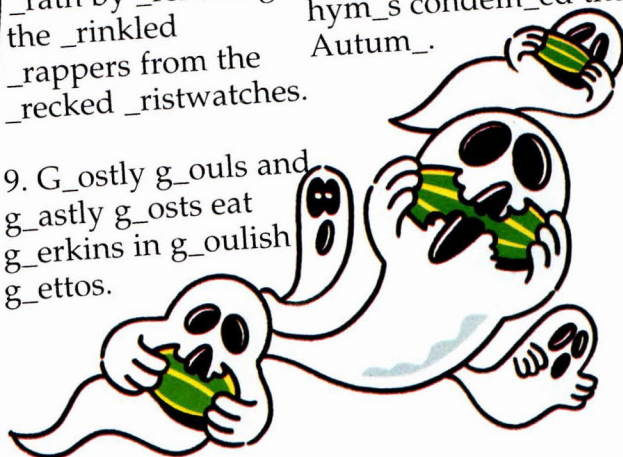


6. R_yming, r_ythmical r_inoceroses like r_inestones and r_ubarb.

7. The _retched _riter _reaked his _rath by _renching the _rinkled _rappers from the _recked _ristwatches.

8. Around the solem_colum_s the singers' hym_s condem_ed the Autum_.

9. G_ostly g_ouls and g_astly g_osts eat g_erkins in g_oulish g_ettos.





Conversation clues

Which silent letters are missing from the words in these speech bubbles?



Last week I had my pa..2..m read by Madame Rippemovsky, the famous ..3..syhic. I was ag..4..ast at the things she ..5..new. She told me all about my "keep the countryside tidy" campai..6..n, also that I don't like lam..7.. chops or egg yo..8..ks, and that ras..9..berries are the fruit I like most. She ..10..new that I want to be a fashion desi..11..ner and that I'd seen an art ex..12..hibition the day before. She told me that I shou..13..d look for my lost s..14..issors in my brown bag, and also that one day I wou..15..d sail on a ya..16..17..t around forei..18..n and exotic i..19..lands with a tall, dark and han..20..some stranger! I hope she's ri..21..22..t!

Hear this

Certain words have letters which some people pronounce, but others don't, such as the *o* in *factory*. See if you can guess a few

of them from these clues. The first letter of each is given to help you. Which are the letters that are often silent?

1 Potatoes, carrots, peas...

2 The month after January

3 A small-scale copy or model

4 Another word for precious

5 The one after eleventh

6 Dark, milk or white confectionery

7 Fahrenheit or Centigrade

V 8 UK politicians assemble here

F 9 Machine for sucking up dust

M 10 This means out of the ordinary

V 11 Custer was a famous one

T 12 A jewel

C 13 Home for monks

T 14 The day after Tuesday

P

V

E

G

D

M

W

The sound of silence

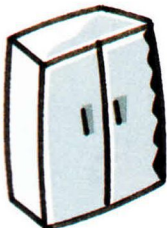
Can you unscramble the jumbled names of the things pictured here?

There is at least one silent letter in each word. Can you spot them?

1 mobb



2 porbucad



3 nydhig



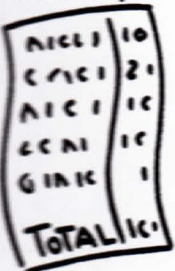
4 strewrel



5 kenrock



6 ceetrip



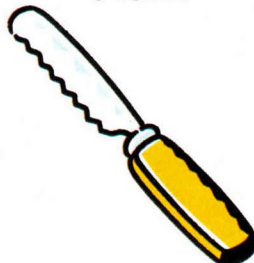
7 bruscm



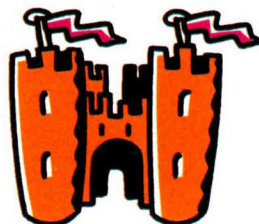
8 oybu



9 fenik



10 stacel



Some letters regularly occur together in combination. But this can be confusing, as one combination of

letters can spell different sounds, while a single sound may be spelled by more than one combination.

gh Combinations such as *ough*, *augh*, and *igh* can be tricky, as the *gh* is heard either as “f” (as in *tough*), or is silent (as in *light*). The most difficult is *ough*, as several sounds are spelled this way.

qu After the Norman Conquest, French scribes changed the Old English spelling *cw* to *qu*. For example, *cwic* and *cwen* became *quick* and *queen*. Also, in a few words, they spelled a “k” sound with *que*, as in *picturesque*.

dge A “j” sound at the end of a word or syllable is spelled *ge* if the vowel sound is long (as in *huge*), or when there is a short vowel with a consonant (as in *cringe*). But if there is a short vowel and no consonant, use *dge* (as in *redge*). An exception to remember is *pigeon*.

tch Watch out for “ch” sounds at the ends of words or syllables. Where there is a short vowel and no consonant, “ch” is spelled *tch*, as in *catch*. The most common exceptions are: *such*, *much*, *attach*, *detach*, *sandwich* and *bachelor*.

Qu quiz

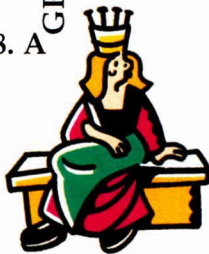
The king can only reach the queen to deliver his bouquet if he can answer these clues correctly. Can you help him? Begin at number one, and find a word that includes *qu* for each clue. The first letter of each word is given in red.



Do you know what all these *qu* words mean? Test your spelling by reading, covering, then writing each one.



1. OFTEN, OR MANY TIMES **F** 2. NOT SEEN THROUGH **O** 3. A SMALL NUT-EATING ANIMAL **S** 4. TO MINE **Q** 9. ORIGINAL OR ONE OF A KIND **U**
5. PEACEFUL OR GIVE IN OR TO GIVE UP **Q** 6. WHERE GOLDFISH ARE **T** 7. A FOURTH KEPT **A** 8. AN OPEN MINE **Q** 10. FOUR-SIDED SHAPE **S** 11. FAST **Q**
12. WILLIAM THE ... **C** 13. WHERE BOATS ARE TIED UP **Q** 14. AMOUNT **Q** 15. WASTE MONEY **S** 16. A WATER-CARRYING BRIDGE **A** 17. ARGUMENT **Q** 18. A GROUP OF 4 **Q** 19. STRANGE **Q** 20. A KING'S WIFE **Q**



- QUADRUPED
- LACQUER
- ACQUIRE
- SQUASH
- GROTESQUE
- QUOTA
- ETIQUETTE
- QUALIFICATION
- QUINTET
- EQUILIBRIUM
- QUOTATION
- MARQUEE
- QUALM
- INQUISITIVE
- QUILL
- ACQUAINTANCE
- QUEUE
- REQUISITION
- QUERY
- EQUATION
- QUINTESSENTIAL
- QUALITY
- SQUADRON
- REQUEST

gh dge qu tch gh dge qu tch gh dge qu tch gh dge

ge or dge?

The sound "j" is missing from the gaps here. Can you pick the right spelling for each one?

choose ch or tch

You can complete the article below by replacing each gap with either *ch* or *tch*.

Pet show fiasco

A colle..1.. pet show ended in disaster last week. Besides the usual cats and dogs, some rather stran..2.. entrants emer..3..d, including a he..4..hog, a ba..5..r, and a rock in a ca..6..! The ju..7.. (Annie Mall, a local vet) crin..8..d as a cat ate a mouse called Mi..9..t, and a parrot mana..10..d to fly up to a high le..11.., out of reach. Some people began to fi..12..t, and accused the he..13..hog of having fleas. Its angry owner said that such remarks did dreadful dama..14.. to people's ima..15.. of the creatures, and blows were exchan..16..d. In the confusion, a puppy called Smu..17.. ran off with the ba..18.. for first prize, and was later declared the winner.



Ki..l..en Pun..2..-up!

Guests at a local hotel had only sandwi..3..es for lun..4.. today, as chefs Pierre Noir (Fren..5..) and Jan Van Glyk (Du..6..) were fighting. Noir accused Van Glyk of scor..7..ing his ..8..icken dish by swi..9..ing up the oven. Van Glyk said he hadn't tou..10..ed it and Noir was no ma..11.. for him anyway. The waiters wa..12..ed and ..13..eered as Noir ..14..ased Van Glyk, clu..15..ing a bu..16..er's ha..17..et. Van Glyk threw a ba..18.. of eggs at Noir, who then poured ke..19..up over Van Glyk's head. The enraged Van Glyk pun..20..ed Noir, who fell and hit his head on a ben..21.., while Van Glyk pi..22..ed forward, wren..23..ing his ankle. Both needed to be carried on a stre..24..er to an ambulance. The police fe..25..ed them from the hospital, where Noir received ten sti..26..es, and Van Glyk, a pair of cru..27..es.



The gh trap

The combinations *ough*, *augh* and *igh* are missing from these speech bubbles.

But which fits each gap?

Alth_ I like these shoes, they're too h_ and too t_t.

Go thr_ the park and turn r_t. Head for the br_t l_ts.

Come with me. I m_t get lost.

I feel really r_ with this c_ and cold.

I can't help l_ing at the s_t of my n_ty d_ter.

I've had en_ of this bone. It's too t_.

I th_t you were pale.

A prefix is a group of letters (such as *inter* or *sub*) which you add onto the beginning of a word to change its meaning. Adding a prefix is quite straightforward - you usually keep all the letters, even if the two you are joining are the same. For example, *dis* + *satisfied* = *dissatisfied*
un + *nerve* = *unnerve*

But when *all* and *well* are used as prefixes, one *l* is dropped. For example, *all* + *ways* = *always*, *well* + *fare* = *welfare*. But do not drop an *l* when *well* is used with a hyphen. For example, *well-made* and *well-off*. On these pages you can test yourself on some of the most common prefixes.

Guesswork

Most prefixes come from Latin, Greek and Old English. Knowing what they mean can often help you guess the meaning of a new word. Can you figure out the meaning of each prefix below by looking at the examples?



trans	transplant	transform	transfusion
re	replace	reunion	recapture
hyper	hypersensitive	hypertension	hyperactive
post	postpone	postnatal	postgraduate
micro	microchip	microwave	microscope
circum	circumference	circumnavigate	circumstance
omni	omnipotent	omnivore	omnibus
auto	autobiography	autopilot	automatic
multi	multinational	multimillionaire	multilateral
photo	photograph	photosynthesis	photosensitive
anti	anticlimax	antifreeze	antihero
pre	prehistoric	prejudge	prepayment
extra	extraterrestrial	extrasensory	extraordinary
mono	monorail	monopoly	monologue

Singled out

Here are some less common prefixes and their meanings:










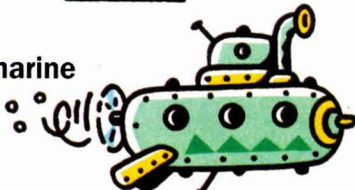
ante	before/in front of
ultra	extreme/beyond
pseudo	false
demi	half
homo	the same/like
intra	inside/within
mega	large/great
hypo	too little
arch	chief

Do you know what the following words mean?

- 1 **antebellum**
- 2 **ultramodern**
- 3 **pseudonym**
- 4 **demigod**
- 5 **homophones**
- 6 **intravenous**
- 7 **megastar**
- 8 **hypothermia**
- 9 **archenemy**

Picture this

Use the picture clues to guess the prefixes missing from the words below.

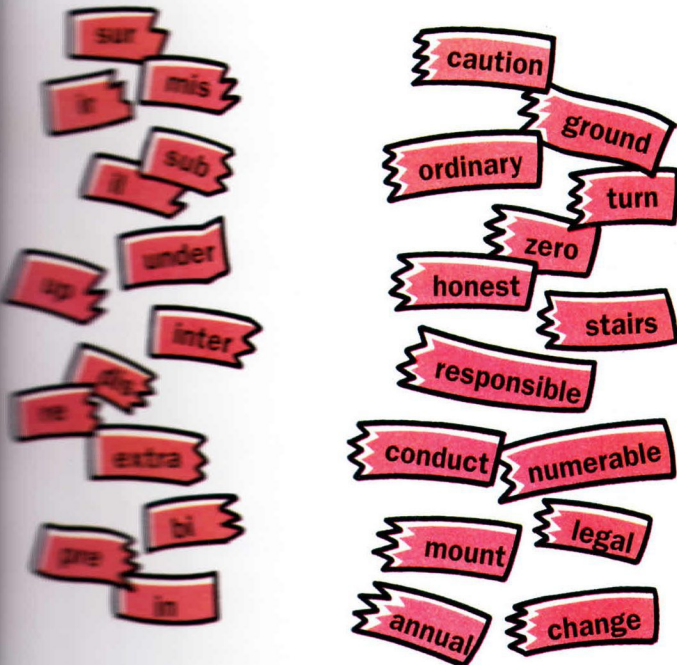
- 1 -pede 
- 2 -scope 
- 3 -circular 
- 4 -natural 
- 5 -happy 
- 6 -cycle 
- 7 -sphere 
- 8 -national 
- 9 -angles 
- 10 -marine 

mis in il ir im all un dis mis in il ir im all un dis

Matching pairs

Can you make words which match the numbered descriptions by joining the prefixes and words below?

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 below freezing | 8 above the ground floor |
| 2 junction | 9 not to be relied upon |
| 3 below the earth | 10 to come back again |
| 4 naughtiness | 11 to overcome something |
| 5 not usual | 12 action to avoid danger |
| 6 deceitful, lying | 13 happening twice a year |
| 7 against the law | 14 too many to count |



Face the opposition

Try forming the opposites of the words in capitals below by adding either *un*, *il*, *im*, *mis*, *in*, *ir*, or *dis* onto the front of them.

"How dare you **OBEY** me!" the king shouted.

Cruelty to animals is completely **NECESSARY**.

Her writing was so bad it was **LEGIBLE**.

The 16th century vase I had smashed was **REPLACEABLE**.

Cats have very **DEPENDENT** natures.

It is very **PROBABLE** that we will have snow in August.

Drugs are **LEGAL** in most countries.

Due to our **CALCULATIONS**, the carpet was the wrong size.

I could see by the scowl on her face that she **APPROVED**.

At present, it is **POSSIBLE** for men to have babies.

"Hurry up! We haven't got all day," she yelled **PATIENTLY**.

To waste paper is to be environmentally **RESPONSIBLE**.

We had the **FORTUNE** to miss each other at the airport.

Although he regretted it, his decision was **REVERSIBLE**.

In both looks and personality, the twins were **SIMILAR**.

The **MANAGEABLE** children ran riot in the classroom.

I used to be **DECISIVE**, but now I'm not so sure.

It is **POLITE** to open your mouth while chewing your food.

Precise prefixes

Try replacing each of these descriptions with a word that begins with a prefix.

- 1 lots of different shades
- 2 to put off until later
- 3 a self-written life story
- 4 fluent in two languages
- 5 an advance showing
- 6 not cooked enough
- 7 to vanish
- 8 to translate a secret message
- 9 forever
- 10 to seek out information
- 11 a disappointing ending
- 12 not contented
- 13 unchanging level of sound
- 14 to change drastically
- 15 flawed

Soft c An “s” sound before *i*, *y* or *e* can be spelled with a soft *c*, as in *concept*, *cylinder* and *circumstance*. If a word finishes with a long vowel or a consonant followed by an “s” sound, it is often spelled *ce* (as in *trace* and *innocence*). This is because *se* at the end of a word usually spells a “z” sound (as in *exercise*).

* Exceptions include *tense*, *precise*, *collapse*, *expense*, *immense*, *response*, *suspense* and *sense*.

Hard g A “g” as it sounds in *green* is known as hard *g*. In certain words, the letter *u* separates a hard *g* from *e* or *i* (as in *guest* and *guide*). Sometimes *u* also separates a hard *g* and the letter *a* (as in *guarantee*, *guard* and *language*). Certain words end with a hard *g* spelled *gue* (for example, *fatigue*, *rogue* and *league*).

Soft g The sound “j” before *e*, *i* or *y* can be spelled with a soft *g*, as in *gentle*, *ginger* and *gymnastics*. At the ends of words, the sound “jee” is spelled *gy* (as in *biology*) and the sound “idj” is spelled *age* (as in *manage*). *Acknowledge*, *porridge* and *college* are the most common exceptions to remember.

Endings Here is a rule for adding endings to words which finish in soft *c* or *g* followed by *e* (like *face* and *stage*). Drop the final *e* if the ending starts with a vowel (*stage* + *ing* + *staging*), but keep it if the ending starts with a consonant (*face* + *less* = *faceless*). But when adding *ous*, keep *e* after soft *g* (*courage* + *ous* + *courageous*), and change it to *i* after soft *c* (*grace* + *ous* = *gracious*). Also keep the *e* when adding *able* (as in *peace* + *able* = *peaceable*).

Get guessing

Meet private investigator Guy Roper. He puts words containing hard *g* sounds into code. Can you crack it?



Did you 7, 21, 5, 19, 19 it was me?
 I'm so good at 4, 9, 19, 7, 21, 9, 19, 9, 14, 7
 myself that even my 3, 15, 12, 12, 5, 1, 7, 21, 5, 19
 don't recognize me. 17, 21, 1, 18, 1, 14, 20, 5, 5 I'll
 solve any mystery, however 9, 14, 20, 18, 9, 7, 21, 9, 14, 7
 it is. If you know where to look, you can always
 find clues to 7, 21, 9, 4, 5 you to a
 7, 21, 9, 12, 20, 25 person.
 At the moment, I'm undercover as a musician -
 that's why I have a 7, 21, 9, 20, 1, 18. But unluckily
 musical notes are a foreign 12, 1, 14, 7, 21, 1, 7, 5
 to me. I have to be on my 7, 21, 1, 18, 4 all the
 time so I don't blow my cover.
 Shhhh! Someone's coming.
 I'd better 7, 5, 20 away ...

Putting an end to it

Can you add endings to the words in capitals, so that the sentences read correctly? Make any spelling changes you think are necessary to alter each word correctly.

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 Gandhi was a PEACE man. | 6 I like hot and SPICE curries. | 12 The stain is SCARCE visible. |
| 2 I'm no good at SLICE cake. | 7 Bright red is very NOTICE. | 13 Tap DANCE is fun. |
| 3 Our new house is very SPACE. | 8 Small oranges are JUICE. | 14 Firefighters are COURAGE. |
| 4 His suitcase was UNMANAGE. | 9 He GLANCE around nervously. | 15 Try BALANCE on one leg. |
| 5 Designer clothes are OUTRAGE expensive. | 10 The bull was CHARGE at me. | 16 It is ADVANTAGE to speak several languages. |
| | 11 His JUDGE was too harsh. | |

*Turn to pages 26-27 to find out about certain words which end in *ce* when they are nouns, and *se* when they are verbs.



Do you get the gist?

Use these clues to guess words with a soft g. The first letter of each is given for you.

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|----|---|---|
| 1 | The study of the Earth, its climate, and how people live | G | 9 | You give someone this when you say you're sorry to them | A |
| 2 | An animal with a long neck | G | 10 | This is in the air you breathe | O |
| 3 | A likeness of something or someone, perhaps in a mirror | I | 11 | What you might call a person selfish with money | S |
| 4 | Bacteria which make you ill | G | 12 | A very tall person | G |
| 5 | Dull, dismal or dirty | D | 13 | Used for binding up injuries | B |
| 6 | Where a car is kept overnight | G | 14 | Fierce, wild or primitive | S |
| 7 | A line down the left side of paper | M | 15 | A very intelligent person | G |
| 8 | Starting point, or beginning | O | 16 | Wire enclosure for animals | C |

Spell soft c

In these three advertisements, words with soft c have been jumbled up. Can you unscramble them?

1

Crunch-U-Like

Try our new raceel!

WE GUARANTEE YOU'LL LOVE OUR CIPEER OF
**crunchy oats and
 ciyuj stuirc fruit chunks**
 OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

2

MERRIMAN'S CUCSIR

OPENS AT 8PM WITH A
**FACEMINTGIN SICNOSROPE
 GAZE AT THE
 INOSECRIP OF KNIFE THROWERS
 THE NICETRATNOONC OF JUGGLERS
 THE CRAGE OF TRAPEZE ARTISTS
 THE BLANECA OF HIGH-WIRE
 WALKERS**

GASP IN ECMINXTEET
 AS STEVIE STAR SPINS TWO HUNDRED ASCURSE
 AND MARVIN THE MARVELOUS STINYCUILC
 MAKES A STEEP ACNEST UP A TIGHTROPE

LAUGH AT THE ENEXTCELL CLOWNS!
 BE DEEDVICE BY THE WORLD-FAMOUS MAGICIAN
"THE GREAT MYSTERIO"

SEE THE GREATEST SHOW OF THE TUNRYCE!

3

Sample the ceepa
 of
Writington Nature Reserve

A brief film show in our mini-minace rotnudesic
 the many different sicpees you can see.
 Wander around our currellic nature trail
 at your own novinecenec.

Don't forget to visit the swannery, where you can
 watch gsnecy and parent swans in their natural habitat

**WHY NOT STOP FOR REFRESHMENT AT OUR SELF-VEERSIC CAFE?
 SEE YOU SOON!**

The ends of many English words are not emphasized. This means that

able/ible The endings *able* and *ible* are often confused, as they both sound and mean the same (to be fit or able to). As *able* is much more common, it's easiest to learn which words end in *ible*. But there are some useful tips to remember.

You usually drop silent e when adding *able* or *ible*. For example, *use* + *able* = *usable*, *sense* + *ible* = *sensible*. But remember that after soft *c* or *g* there is an *e* before *able* (for example, *peaceable*, *manageable*), but not before *ible* (*invincible*, *unintelligible*). Also watch out for *soluble*, which has neither *a* nor *i*.

cul Words which end in the sound "cul" are spelled *cal* if they are adjectives (such as *medical* and *practical*), *cle* if they are nouns (such as *circle*), and sometimes also *kle* (as in *tickle* and *fickle*).

differences can be difficult to hear and so also to spell.

ise/ize You might see some words spelled both *ize* and *ise* (such as *realize* /*realise*). This is because in the UK both are correct in many cases. In the US, however, *ize* is the usual spelling. But in both countries there are some words which can only be spelled *ise*. These include: *advise*, *advertise*, *compromise*, *despise*, *devise*, *disguise*, *enterprise*, *exercise*, *improvise*, *revise*, *supervise*, *surmise*, *surprise*, *televise*. Also watch out for *prize* (a reward) and *prise* (to force something open).

ence/ance More words end in *ence* or *ent* than *ance* or *ant*. After hard *c* or *g* use *ance/ant* (as in *significance*), but after a soft *c* or *g* use *ence/ent* (as in *negligent*). Watch out for *dependant* - this means a person who is *dependent*, with no *independence*.

— wise or wize? —


The "ize" sounds are missing from these sentences. But how should each one be spelled - *ise* or *ize*?

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 She was so thin I hardly recogn_d her. | 9 I won first pr_ in the competition. |
| 2 Exerc_ is good for you. | 10 Our new puppy was advert_d in the newspaper. |
| 3 The second edition has been rev_d_. | 11 When the actor forgot his lines, he had to improv_. |
| 4 The teacher had 30 children to superv_. | 12 I like taking part, but I desp_ losing. |
| 5 My friends organ_d a surpr_ party for me. | 13 My big brother critic_s me. |
| 6 The music store special_s in pianos. | 14 I went trick or treating disgu_d as a vampire. |
| 7 Some snakes hypnot_ their prey. | 15 My brother custom_d his bicycle. |
| 8 The sales assistant pressur_d me into buying it. | |

— Probably horrible —

Try replacing each numbered gap in this unusual report with either *able* or *ible*.

○ Last night, I was driving with the roof of my convert..1.. car ○
 ○ down, when a strange light became vis..2.. in the sky. It landed ○
 ○ in a nearby field, and I set off to investigate. As I drew nearer to ○
 ○ the light, a spaceship became recogniz..3.. It wasn't advis..4.. to ○
 ○ hang around, but I was unmov..5.. at the terr..6.. sight. Suddenly, ○
 ○ a kind of collaps..7.. ladder appeared - whatever horr..8.. things ○
 ○ were lurking inside wanted to be soet..9.. I didn't wait to find out ○
 ○ if they were peace..10.. but ran for my life. It's understand..11.. if ○
 ○ you find my incred..12.. story unbeliev..13.. as I have no reli..14.. ○
 ○ proof. But I am sens..15.. respons..16.. and not at all gull..17.. . I ○
 ○ never thought life in outer space was poss..18.. but this ○
 ○ unforgett..19.. experience has made me change my mind. ○



ible cul ize able ul ible cul ize able ul ible cul ize

Possibly problematical

The clues below describe words which end with a "cul" sound. The first letter of each

word is given, to help you guess them. How is each word spelled?

1 What the **p** stands for in P.E.

2 Round shape

3 Something in your way

4 Hanging finger of ice

5 Vegetables preserved in vinegar

6 Of utmost importance

P 7 Where your foot joins your leg

C 8 A type of music

O 9 Single eye glass

I 10 Cars, trucks etc. are all types of this

P 11 Two-wheeled transportation

C 12 In the surrounding area

A

C

M

V

B

L

Trail finder

The letters *a* and *e* are missing from the words in this grid. Starting at the top left arrow, there is an invisible path of *ant* and

ance words through the surrounding *ent* and *ence* words, leading out at the bottom right arrow*. Can you find this path?

acquaint_		resid_			excell_		accid_
confid_	clear_	cli_	differ_	serv_	adjac_	inst_	sent_
differ_	allow_	evid_	griev_	appar_	import_	obedi_	fragr_
innoc_	ignor_	refer_	defend_	circumfer_	frequ_	pres_	reluct_
	sil_	ramp_			interfer_	persever_	
	occurr_	influ_	exist_	nuis_	impertin_	appear_	
intellig_	perman_	assist_	appli_	viol_	disturb_	promin_	consequ_
differ_	observ_	audi_	appar_	abs_	immin_	prud_	insol_
gar_	dilig_	lieuten_	attend_	ten_	resembl_	insur_	pret_
conveni_		effici_			consci_		ambul_



Here are some words which end in *ible*. Do you know what they all mean?

EXHAUSTIBLE

NEGLIGIBLE

INDIGESTIBLE

DISCERNIBLE

DIVISIBLE

LEGIBLE

DISMISSIBLE

REPREHENSIBLE

CONTEMPTIBLE

IMPERCEPTIBLE

SUSCEPTIBLE

FORCIBLE

EDIBLE

PLAUSIBLE

ELIGIBLE

INCOMPREHENSIBLE

Test your spelling by reading, covering, then writing each one.

IRRESISTIBLE

OSTENSIBLE

TANGIBLE

INDESTRUCTIBLE

FLEXIBLE

INCORRIGIBLE

ADMISSIBLE

CORRUPTIBLE

REVERSIBLE

PERMISSIBLE

EXTENDIBLE

ACCESSIBLE

INDELIBLE

FEASIBLE

FALLIBLE

DEDUCTIBLE

*The path can lead horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

A suffix is a letter, or combination of letters, added onto the end of a word to change either the meaning or the

way the word is used. You usually need to make some alterations in order to add a suffix.

e If a word ends in silent e, drop the e when adding a suffix which begins with a vowel (for example, *examine* + *ation* = *examination*). But watch out for *age* + *ing*, as both *aging* and *ageing* are correct. Other exceptions include: *acreage*, *singeing*, *dyeing*, *gluey*, words to which *able* is added (such as *loveable*), and words ending in soft *c* or soft *g* when *ous* is added (see page 16).

If the suffix begins with a consonant, keep the e (for example, *care* + *less* = *careless*). Exceptions to this include: *argue* + *ment* = *argument*, *awe* + *ful* = *awful*, *due* + *ly* = *duly*, *true* + *ly* = *truly*, *whole* + *ly* = *wholly*.

OUS The suffix *ous* means “full of” (for example, *generous* means full of generosity). When adding *ous* to words ending in *our*, such as *vigour*, you need to drop the *u* (*vigorous*). An extra *i* is needed in *laborious* (from *labour*). Also, a final *f* changes to *v* (*grief/grievous*).

y Many people find it confusing to add a suffix to a word ending in *y*. The rule is similar to the one for forming plurals (see page 6). Look at the letter before the *y*. If it is a vowel, just add the suffix. For example, *enjoy* + *ment* = *enjoyment*. If it is a consonant, change the *y* to *i*. For example, *luxury* + *ous* = *luxurious*, *heavy* + *ness* = *heaviness*, *plenty* + *ful* = *plentiful*.

But there are several exceptions to remember. Always keep a final *y* when adding *ing*. So *bury* + *ing* = *burying*, but *bury* + *ed* = *buried*. Also keep a final *y* before adding *ish* (as in *babyish*), and whenever the *y* sounds like long “i” (as in *shyly*). When adding the suffix *ous* to *pity*, *beauty* and *plenty*, you need to change the final *y* to *e*, not *i*, as in *piteous*, *beauteous* and *plenteous*. Also beware of another two exceptions: *joy* + *ous* = *joyous* and *calamity* + *ous* = *calamitous*. The letter *y* unexpectedly changes to *i* in the following: *lay/laid*, *pay/paid*, *say/said*, *slay/slain*, *day/daily*, *gay/gaily/gaiety*.

How about ous?

Try forming adjectives ending in *ous* from the nouns in capitals below.

1  Modeling is a GLAMOUR profession.	2  Lightning is extremely DANGER .	3  Japan is a very MOUNTAIN country.	4  I am reading a HUMOUR book.	5  Matthew is a STUDY pupil.
6  I am always ANXIETY to arrive on time.	7  Monkeys are MISCHIEF creatures.	8  Housework is dull and LABOUR .	9  A dancer's life demands RIGOUR discipline.	10  Be CAUTION when crossing the road.

ing ness y ful e ous ity ing ness y ful e ous ity ing

Now you see it...

Sometimes a letter "disappears" when you add a suffix - usually a vowel in the last syllable. For example, *tiger* + *ess* = *tigress*. Try joining the words and suffixes opposite. You will need to make a letter disappear from each one. (Beware of numbers 8 and 10. You need to make an additional change to each of these.)

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 curious + ity | 9 waiter + ess |
| 2 hinder + ance | 10 maintain + ance |
| 3 repeat + ition | 11 winter + y |
| 4 exclaim + ation | 12 explain + ation |
| 5 disaster + ous | 13 monster + ous |
| 6 administer + ate | 14 vain + ity |
| 7 four + ty | 15 remember + ance |
| 8 pronounce + ation | 16 nine + th |

All's well that ends well

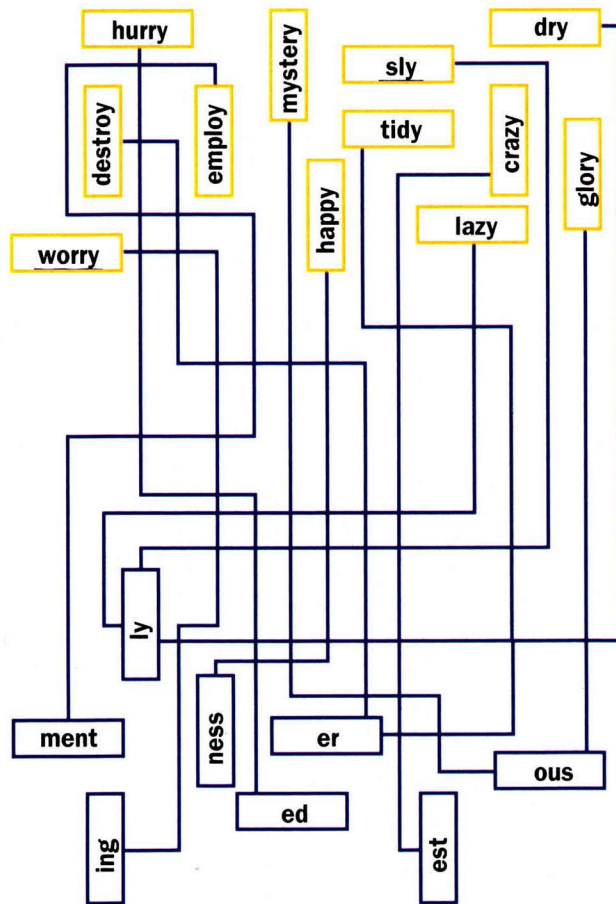
Can you add suffixes to the words in pink here, so that this letter makes sense? You will have to decide what to do with the silent e on the end of each word.

What to do with y

Follow these paths to find out which word leads to which suffix. Can you join them correctly? How many other ways can you find of joining these words and suffixes?

Dear Jamal,
 I'm **WRITE** to invite you to my birthday **CELEBRATE** next Thursday at the **AMUSE** park. It's still undergoing **RENOVATE** but will be open from Monday. It'll be very **EXCITE**. There's an **AMAZE** water-flume and a really **SCARE** roller coaster. If you're **EXTREME DARE** there's also a huge wheel in which you go backwards and upside down while **REVOLVE** sideways. Can you **IMAGE** it? Even I might not be **ADVENTURE** enough for that! Dad says he'll do the **DRIVE**, so don't have an **ARGUE** with your parents about how you're going to get there and back. I was **USE** at **PERSUADE** Dad to come in, too. He thinks it'll be **TIRE** and **NOISE**. So, we can go on our own as long as we're on our best **BEHAVE** and act **SENSE**. Let me know if you're **COME**. I'm really **HOPE** to see you. It should be **TRUE** brilliant.
 Lots of love,
 Miles

PS. I'm sending **INVITE** to Tanya and Steve too, but it's **LIKE** Tanya won't come. She's quite **NERVE** and says you have to be **RIDICULE** to enjoy being frightened.



A real handful

When added as a suffix, *full* is spelled *ful* (as in *helpful*). For example, *full* + *ness* = *fulness*, *help* + *ful* = *helpful*. But the suffix *fully* keeps the double *l*, as in *forgetfully* and *gracefully*.

Watch out for these special patterns:
skill *skilful*, *skilfully*
will *wilful*, *wilfully*
fill *fulfil*, *fulfilment*
 (but *fulfilled* and *fulfilling*).

ie/ei Many people have problems spelling words which include *ie* or *ei*. Remembering this rhyme can be helpful:

**I BEFORE E EXCEPT AFTER C
BUT ONLY WHERE THESE LETTERS
SOUND LIKE LONG "E"**

For example, the long "e" sound in *believe* is spelled *ie*, but this same sound is spelled *ei* in *perceive* as it occurs after the letter *c*.

There are some exceptions though, the most common of which are *seize*, *weird*, *caffeine*, *species* and *protein*.

But *ie* and *ei* sometimes make sounds other than long "e". For example, *ie* and *ei* can spell a long "i" sound (as in *society* and *height*). *Ei* can also spell a long "a" (as in *weight*), or the sound "air" (as in *their*). Watch out for tricky spellings like these.

i and e quick quiz

Use the picture clues to help you unscramble these words. Each one contains *ie* or *ei*.



1 ITHEF



2 HEGIT



3 WIVE



4 DIFLE



5 ITE



6 FRAKEHIDENCH



7 DILSHE



8 ROSELID



Here are some words which include *ie* and *ei*. Look them up in a dictionary if you don't know what they mean. Next, test your spelling by reading, covering, then writing each one.

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|----------|------------|
| SURFEIT | BELIEF | GAIETY | SIEGE |
| YIELD | EXPERIENCE | SKEIN | FEINT |
| RECEIPT | FREIGHT | DIESEL | LIEUTENANT |
| REIGN | CONCEIT | SIEVE | ACQUIESCE |
| MEDIAEVAL | GRIEVANCE | RETRIEVE | BEIGE |
| LIE | PERCEIVE | SHEIK | CONSCIENCE |
| TIER | RELIEF | PIERCE | SERIES |
| EFFICIENT | WEIR | CEILING | THEIR |
| CONVENIENT | GEISHA | BIER | QUIET |
| RECIPIENT | MOVIES | ORIENTAL | RELIEVE |
| ATHEIST | EIDERDOWN | FIEND | ALIEN |
| SEISMIC | PIETY | SIENNA | DEITY |

Missing pieces

Can you finish off these words correctly? They all include *ie* or *ei*.

- Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Patel are next-door n_.
- "Pat_ is a virtue," the p_ told his congregation.
- The E_ Tower is in Paris.
- Max is a very diso_ dog.
- Pirates' gold is also known as "p_ of e_".
- Santa Claus's s_ is drawn by seven r_.
- When the portrait was unv_, they all saw it had gone!
- He was h_ to the throne.

ie ei ie ei ie ei ie ei ie ei ie ei ie ei ie ei ie ei

Check up on ie and ei

The following words are missing from "Fierce Justice": *society, reprieve, chief, brief, feigned, achievement, lenient*. Can you choose the right one to

replace each numbered gap? Next, see if you can rearrange the jumbled words in "Tips for Tops" to find Dr. Ivor Cure's hints for a healthy life.

Finally, *ie* and *ei* have been left out of the horoscopes below. But which combination completes each word?

Fierce Justice! TIPS FOR TOPS



BANK ROBBER SENTENCED TO 125 YEARS

A judge has sentenced two men accused of robbing a bank at gunpoint to 125 years in prison. Throughout their ..1.. trial the men ..2.. innocence, in the hope of a ..3..

But the judge said he could not be ..4.. as the pair were obviously a menace to ..5.. ..6.. Inspector Lawless said that putting these bad criminals behind bars was a great ..7..



- 1 Make sure your tide contains plenty of *tirpone*.
- 2 Watch your *thewig*.
- 3 Reduce your cholesterol intake - it's bad for your *seniv*.
- 4 Drink *dacefatfendie* coffee.
- 5 Eat a *yearvoit* of foods, to make sure you get all the *sunnitret* necessary for good health.

- 6 Spend some of your *reelius* time each week exercising.
- 7 Meditate regularly, in order to *reeveil* stress and *texyain*.
- 8 Make sure you have a bath or shower every day. Personal *heegyin* is very important.

Star spot



Aquarius
You will rec..1..ve a gift.



Gemini
The results of a sc..5..ntific experiment will interest you.



Libra
S..9..ze the chance for a new exper..10..nce.



Pisces
Don't get too t..2..d up with people's problems.



Cancer
You will take ..6..ther a boat or plane trip.



Scorpio
It's a good time to begin learning a for..11..gn language.



Aries
Have a night out with fr..3..nds.



Leo
Make a recipe using unusual ingred..7..nts.



Sagittarius
Visit some anc..12..nt ruins.



Taurus
Watch out for counterf..4..t money.



Virgo
Don't let a stranger dec..8..ve you.



Capricorn
You will hear from a distant relation, perhaps a nephew or n..13..ce.

Words with double letters (such as necessary) are confusing to spell. But knowing whether to double a final letter when adding a suffix is even

one When adding a suffix to a word of one syllable, a short vowel sound and one final consonant* (such as *glad*), double the final letter if the suffix begins with a vowel (*glad + en = gladden*). But leave the final letter single if the suffix begins with a consonant (*glad + ly = gladly*).

l Double a final *l* if the suffix begins with a vowel (*travel + ed = travelled*). But keep the single if the suffix begins with a consonant (*quarrel + some = quarrelsome*), or if there are two vowels before it (*veil + ed = veiled*, *appeal + ing = appealing*). There are some exceptions, such as *formality*, *brutality*, *civility*, *capital/capitalism*, *fatal/fatalist/fatalism*.

more difficult. It depends on the number of syllables in a word and where the stress lies. There are also special rules for words ending in *r* and *l*.

r A final *r* stays single if the stress is on the first syllable (for example, *offer/offering*). If the stress is on the second syllable, double the *r* (for example, *occur/occurring*). But if there are two vowels before the *r*, leave it single (as in *despair/despairing*).

two For two-syllable words which end in one consonant* (such as *pilot*), don't double the final letter if the stress falls on the first syllable (for example, *pilot + ing = piloting*, *gallop + ed = galloped*). When the stress lies on the second syllable, double the final letter if the suffix begins with a vowel, but leave it single if it begins with a consonant. For example, *regret + ing = regretting*, but *regret + fully = regretfully*.

Missing doubles

Double *b*, *c*, *d*, *f*, *g*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *p*, *r*, *s*, *t* and *z* are missing from the pages of this story. But which do you need to complete each word?



I had had a fu..1..y feeling about things from the begi..2..ing. I had mi..3..ed my co..4..ection - the last train till morning, so asked someone (a sma..5.. man with a shifty a..6..earance and a nervous ma..7..er) to reco..8..end a hotel. Leaving my lu..9..age, I set off. The weather was ho..10..ible - to..11..ential rain poured down my co..12..ar and co..13..ected in my boots, while the wind whi..14..ed around me. After walking for ages down a deserted road, with no sign of any a..15..o..16..dation, I was ge..17..ing i..18..itable and depre..19..ed. Su..20..enly, I saw da..21..ling headlights coming from the o..22..osite direction. I a..23..empted to a..24..ract the driver's a..25..ention, but the car a..26..elerated as it a..27..roached! I leapt out of the way, just avoiding a co..28..ision, and ho..29..led to the side of the road. Having na..30..owly avoided a te..31..ible a..32..ident, I was also u..33..erly lost. What was I to do? Just then, I noticed a light in the distance. I trudged towards it through the su..34..ounding darkne..35.., over pe..36..les and through pu..37..les of mu..38..y water, until eventua..39..y

I a..40..ived at a sha..41..y li..42..le co..43..age. I knocked, cautiously, but there was no reply. Su..44..re..45..ing my nerves, I heaved the door open with a great e..46..ort, and ste..47..ed into a dark pa..48..age. On my i..49..ediate right stairs led down - I a..50..ume to the ce..51..ar. An o..52..ensive sme..53.. came wafting up. In a room to my left, a table was set with food and a cup of co..54..ee - still warm. I was pu..55..led as to why the o..56..upant had left in such a hu..57..y. But before I could satisfy my a..58..etite by a..59..acking the food, I realized with a shu..60..er that I was not alone! I turned around to find myself looking down the ba..61..el of a gun. A man with a ha..62..ard expre..63..ion was calmly si..64..ing by the door, behind me. I hoped he didn't have an itchy tri..65..er finger. I could tell he was a profe..66..ional vi..67..ain by the way he said, "Don't make it nece..68..ary for me to shoot you." I didn't like his a..69..itude one bit. But as my mo..70..o is "never say die," I determined to try to escape at the first o..71..ortunity, or find a way to get a me..72..age to someone, somehow.

*When a word ends with two consonants, the final letter always stays single. For example, *start + ed = started*, *prevent + ing = preventing*.



Watch out for the double letters in these words:

- ACCURATE
- VACCINATE
- PROFESSION
- IRRITATE
- DESICCATE
- SUGGEST
- POSSESS
- AGGRESSION
- EMBARRASS
- ADDRESS
- INFLAMMABLE
- DISSECT
- APPLAUSE
- ACCURATE
- CORRESPOND
- NECESSARY
- ERROR
- ASSESS
- COMMAND
- QUESTIONNAIRE
- COMMUNICATION
- EXAGGERATE
- INTERRUPT
- DISAPPOINT
- ECCENTRIC
- INTERROGATE
- SUCCEED
- PARALLEL

Doubling decisions

Here is an interview with Bob Barley, singer with The Howlers. To make it read correctly, try adding an ending to each word in capitals. But watch out for any letters that need to be doubled.



- Q** How did you become a star?
A I can DIM remember asking for a guitar when I was three. I SHOW that I was REAL talented as soon as I START playing.
- Q** Do you ever think of QUIT the business?
A As I get OLD, I do think about STEP down and LET the youngsters take over. But although my hair's GET THIN, I'm not giving up yet.
- Q** When can we expect a new album from The Howlers?
A We've just SCRAP our latest material to try a change of direction. We're JAM in the studio at the moment.
- Q** What's your DEEP fear?
A DROP out of the charts and my fans FORGET me.
- Q** What are your REMAIN aims?
A I want to be an even BIG star!
- Q** Have you had any setbacks?
A In the BEGIN things moved SLOW and I had HARD any money. But FAIL never CROSS my mind. I GRAB the chance of RECORD my first single, "I'm FALL for you babe", and I never LOOK back.
- Q** What do you like best about your job?
A TRAVEL the world and SING live. HEAR the crowd CHEER at the OPEN of a concert is the GREAT FEEL in the world, man.
- Q** How do you like to spend Sunday?
A STAY in bed and FLIP through the newspapers while SIP a cup of coffee.
- Q** What's the worst aspect of being famous?
A Being SPOT by fans and MOB wherever I go.



Problem patterns

Here are some difficult spelling patterns. Look at the base word, then decide whether

the missing consonants should be single or double in the words which follow.

- | | | | | | |
|------------|----------------------------------|-----------|--|---------------|---|
| 1 panel | pane_ed
pane_ing
pane_ist | 7 common | commo_er
commo_est
commo_ess | 12 cruel | crue_er
crue_est
crue_y
crue_ty |
| 2 enrol | enro_ment
enro_ed
enro_ing | 8 quarrel | quarre_some
quarre_ing
quarre_ed | 13 star | sta_dom
sta_ed
sta_ing |
| 3 open | ope_er
ope_ing
ope_ess | 9 forget | forge_able
forge_ing
forge_ful | 14 commission | commissio_er
commissio_ing |
| 4 model | mode_ed
mode_ing | 10 commit | commi_ee
commi_ing
commi_ment | 15 equal | equa_ize
equa_ity
equa_ed
equa_ing |
| 5 occasion | occasio_al
occasio_ally | 11 occur | occu_ed
occu_ing
occu_ence | 16 happen | happe_ing
happe_ed |
| 6 label | labe_ed
labe_ing | | | | |

Here are some especially difficult tests. If you can answer all these

correctly, you can be sure that you are an excellent speller!

c or s? A few words are spelled with c when they are nouns, but with s when verbs. For example, *advice* and *advise*, *device* and *devise*, *prophecy* and *prophesy*. The pronunciation of these words changes with the spelling, but *practice* and *practise*, and *licence* and *license* sound the same spelled either way.

there/there's/their/theirs/they're

These spellings are very often confused. *There* is the opposite of *here*. *Their* and *theirs* show ownership (for example, *their books*, and *the books are theirs*). *They're* is short for *they are*. *There's* can mean two things: it is usually short for *there is*, but when followed by *been*, it is a short form of *there has*.

Homophones

Homophones are words which sound the same, but which have different spellings and meanings. For example, *there*, *their* and *they're*; *no* and *know*; *past* and *passed*; *threw* and *through*.



Watch out for words which have an "f" sound spelled *ph*. Here are some for you to test yourself on.

- PHASE
- ORPHAN
- PHOBIA
- GRAPH
- CENOTAPH
- PHYSIQUE
- EPITAPH
- SPHERE
- ELEPHANT
- PHONOGRAM
- PHANTOM
- NEPHEW
- MICROPHONE
- NYMPH
- PHRASE
- PARAGRAPH
- PHEASANT
- PHLEGM
- CATASTROPHE
- METAPHOR
- PAMPHLET
- PARAPHERNALIA
- APOSTROPHE
- PHARMACY
- PHENOMENON
- PHYSIOTHERAPY
- DIAPHRAGM

Can you do better?

Here is Ike Canspellit's report card. His teachers have made a lot of spelling mistakes - can you spot them all?

Subject	Name	Class	Grade
	<i>Ike Canspellit</i>	<i>Upper 4</i>	
SPORTS	<i>Ike is skillfull on the football feeld and in the swimming pool.</i>		B+
MUSIC	<i>More self-disiplin and practise are necessary. but Ike has a good scents of rithum.</i>		C
DRAMA	<i>IKE INJOYS BOTH TRADGEDY AND COMIDY AND IS A TALENTED CHARACTER ACTER.</i>		B
MATHS	<i>Ike has benifitted from attending extra classes. He has definitely improoved, but still makes fawlts threw carelesness</i>		C
JOGRAPHY	<i>Ike's project on equitorial rain forrest's was very nollidgible.</i>		B-
SCIENCE	<i>Ike is uninterested in sience and looses concentration easily. He also displays a tendancy to talk. During practice work in the laboratry he medals with the eqqipment. His technecks are very disapointing.</i>		D
HISTRY	<i>Ike has a thurugh under standing of the Ainshent World, espeshally of the lifes of the Roman emporers. He has enjoyed lerning about the gods and godeses of Greek mitholjeee.</i>		A-
INGLISH	<i>Altho Ike makes littel errors in his grammer his creativ riting is genrally exsellent. His discriptions are perseptive and ofen humorus. We have been greatful for his asistence in the libry this year. As usuall, Ike is top of the class at spelling.</i>		A+
Signature <i>Ms V. Unfriendly</i>		Date <i>July 1st</i>	

c there s their c there s their c there s their c there s their

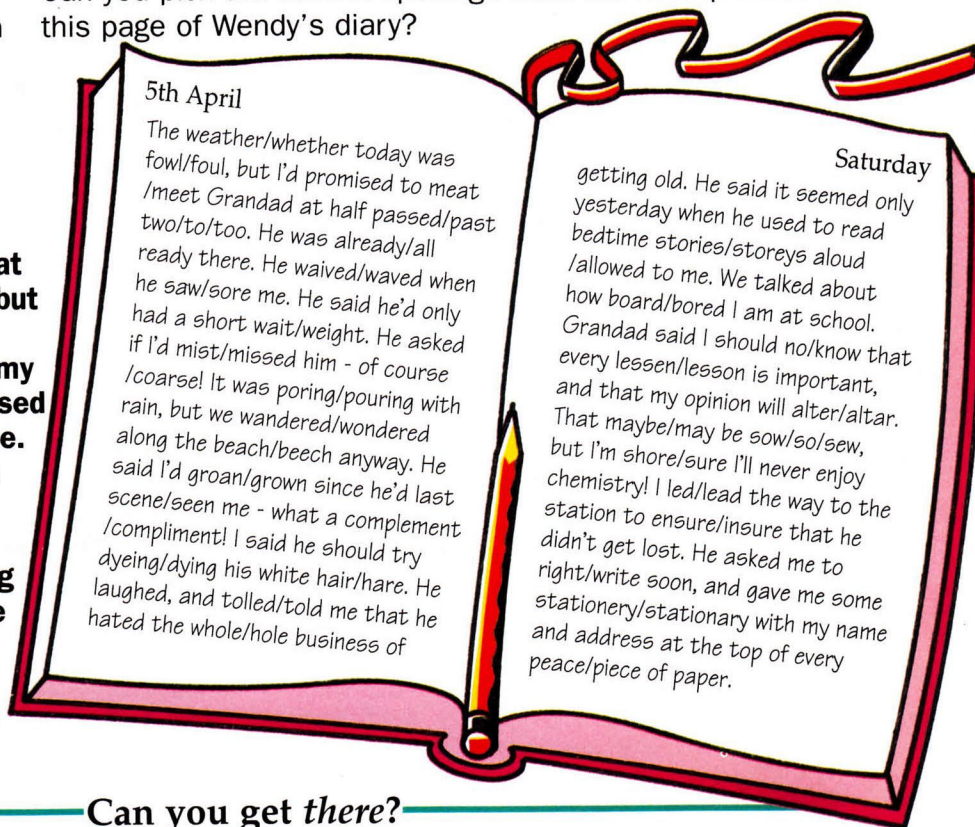
Noun or verb?

Try replacing each of the gaps in these sentences with either c or s. In order to pick the right spelling, you need to decide whether each word with a missing letter is a noun or a verb.

- 1 My piano teacher says that practi_e makes perfect - but I hate practi_ing!
- 2 A clairvoyant prophe_ied my future, but I will be surprised if her prophe_y comes true.
- 3 An inventor has devi_ed a devi_e to wake you up in the morning.
- 4 Everyone should buy a dog licen_e in order to licen_e their dog.
- 5 I advi_ed him not to give up, but he took no notice of my good advi_e.

Sound-alike

Can you pick the correct spellings from the homophones on this page of Wendy's diary?



Can you get there?

Can you think of shorter ways to say the underlined parts of these sentences?

- 1 Look! There is Michelle!
- 2 Look at that, over in that direction!
- 3 I know they are going away today.
- 4 The house belonging to them is huge.
- 5 I want one just like the one they have.
- 6 There has been a dreadful accident.

You will have to use *there*, *there's*, *their*, *theirs*, or *they're* in each one.

- 7 Drop it! It's the one belonging to them.
- 8 There has been a snowfall overnight.
- 9 I liked the friends belonging to them.
- 10 Have some more. There is plenty left.
- 11 I hate going to that place.
- 12 They are always arguing.

The final frontier

Here are just a few of the most commonly misspelled words. Why not make your own list of difficult spellings?

ACCOMMODATION
ACKNOWLEDGE
AERIAL
ALCOHOL
ALTOGETHER
AMATEUR
ANNIHILATE
APARTMENT
AWKWARD

BACHELOR
BANKRUPTCY
BEAUTIFUL
BUSINESS

CALIBRE
CALENDAR
CAMOUFLAGE
CARICATURE
CEMETERY
COLONEL
CONSCIOUS
CRITICISM

DECREPIT
DESCENDANT
DISSUADE

ENVIRONMENT
EXERCISE
EXHAUST

FLUORESCENT
FOREIGNER

GASES
GAUGE
GUARANTEE

IDYLLIC
INDISPENSABLE
INSTALLMENT

LIAISON
LIQUEFIED

MEDIEVAL
OCCASION
OPPORTUNITY

PECULIAR
PERSEVERANCE
POSSESSION
PREJUDICE
PURSUE
PRIVILEGE

QUESTIONNAIRE

RECOMMEND
RHYME

SECRETARY
SEPARATE
SILHOUETTE
SURPRISE

VACUUM
VEHICLE
VICIOUS

Page 3

What are syllables?

- one syllable: soap, bread, milk, eggs, cheese
 two syllables: tooth/paste, pea/nuts, cof/fee, hon/ey, on/ions
 three syllables: de/ter/gent, lem/on/ade, to/ma/toes, ba/na/nas, or/an/ges
 four syllables: mac/a/ro/ni, cau/li/flow/er

What is stress?

tooth/paste, pea/nuts, hon/ey, cof/fee, on/ions, de/ter/gent, lem/on/ade, to/ma/toes, ba/na/nas, or/an/ges, mac/a/ro/ni, cau/li/flow/er

Pages 4-5

An eye for an i

- 1 bikini 3 confetti 5 taxi 7 ski 9 khaki
 2 safari 4 graffiti 6 spaghetti 8 mini 10 salami

Double trouble



One vowel short

- 1 o is the missing vowel 4 y is the missing vowel
 2 u is the missing vowel 5 i is the missing vowel
 3 a is the missing vowel 6 e is the missing vowel

Silent e

- 1 The new words are: us, not, fat, spit, mad, hop, rat, kit, cut, rip
 These all have short vowel sounds.
 2 The new words are: bare, rage, huge, care, fire, sage, fare, pare, wage, here
 3 The completed words are: Chinese, shape, white, telephone, confuse, alone, produce, alive, suppose, complete, escape, home, rescue, combine, bathe, appetite, celebrate, amuse, severe, supreme
 These vowels all have long sounds because of the silent e on the end of each word.

Pages 6-7

Spies in the skies

the ys organization: convoys, essays, toys, holidays, valleys, keys, displays, delays, trolleys, abbeys, journeys

the ies organization: activities, bullies, enemies, allies, flies, factories, dictionaries, replies, bodies, parties, cherries, opportunities, centuries, galaxies

O! What now?

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Eskimo/Eskimos | mosquito/mosquitoes |
| igloo/iglous | piano/pianos |
| kangaroo/kangaroos | potato/potatoes |
| buffalo/buffaloes | tomato/tomatoes |
| volcano/volcanoes | photo/photos |

Singularly confused

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------|
| 1 termini | 4 gateaux | 6 formulae |
| 2 fungi | 5 syllabi or | 7 crises |
| 3 larvae | syllabuses | 8 media |

F words

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1 puffs | 6 thieves, safes |
| 2 scarfs or scarves, handkerchiefs, yourselves | 7 lives |
| 3 hoofs or hooves | 8 shelves, loaves |
| 4 leaves | 9 wolves |
| 5 halves | 10 wives |
| | 11 roofs |

Plural puzzler

Irregular plurals include: mice, men, women, geese, children, teeth, feet

Words that are the same in both the singular and the plural include: deer, salmon, trout, grouse, moose, news, pants, tights, trousers, scissors, fish, mathematics, series, species, innings

Pages 8-9

Conquer kicking k

Kevin likes:
 snakes and crocodiles
 hearing his voice echo
 picnicking in the park
 books about shipwrecks
 doing magic tricks
 climbing trees
 Kevin dislikes:
 acting in school plays
 singing in the choir
 losing his train ticket
 stomachache
 cornflakes, chicken
 and broccoli
 chemistry lessons

Er...? Uh...?

THINGS TO BUY:
 pizza, sugar, butter,
 flour, tuna, bananas,
 hamburgers, marmalade,
 chocolate flavour milkshake,
 writing paper and envelopes,
 an eraser, a ruler and a
 pair of scissors,
 2 yards of purple ribbon,
 film for my camera,
 a packet of cake mixture,
 a battery for my calculator,
 a birthday present
 for Samantha



Are you an air-head?

Dear Gran,
 My first time on an aeroplane was really exciting - when I'm a millionaire I'm going to have my own private jet. My suitcase was bulging - Dad says I'll never have time to wear all the clothes and pairs of shoes I've brought. But I still managed to forget my hair brush, and Sue's forgotten her teddy bear.
 We have a lovely room to share that looks out on the sea - there are some rare birds to spot along this part of the coast. We're going to a funfair tomorrow.
 Take care - we'll see you soon.
 Love,
 Donna XXXXXXXX

THINGS TO DO:
 1 Cut out some pictures of famous actors for my project.
 2 Sign up for the class trip to the theatre.
 3 Ask my next-door neighbour if I can look for my basketball in his garden.
 4 See if my sister will let me wear her new dress on Saturday.
 5 Remind Amanda that it's our turn this week to look after the earthworms in the science room. (Yuk!)

Be sure of sh, shun and zhun

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1 collision | 7 cash | 13 moustache |
| 2 electrician | 8 anxious | 14 official |
| 3 investigation | 9 information | 15 expression |
| 4 explosion | 10 issued | 16 initials |
| 5 junction | 11 description | 17 chauffeur |
| 6 confusion | 12 suspicion | |

Pages 10-11

Tongue twister teasers

- 1 h 2 g 3 l 4 k 5 b 6 h 7 w 8 n 9 h

Conversation clues

- | | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1 what | 8 yolk | 15 would |
| 2 palm | 9 raspberries | 16/17 yacht |
| 3 psychic | 10 knew | 18 foreign |
| 4 aghast | 11 designer | 19 islands |
| 5 knew | 12 exhibition | 20 handsome |
| 6 campaign | 13 should | 21/22 right |
| 7 lamb | 14 scissors | |

Hear this

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1 vegetable | 6 chocolate | 11 general |
| 2 February | 7 temperature | 12 diamond |
| 3 miniature | 8 parliament | 13 monastery |
| 4 valuable | 9 vacuum | 14 Wednesday |
| 5 twelfth | 10 extraordinary | |

The sound of silence

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 bomb | 5 knocker | 9 knife |
| 2 cupboard | 6 receipt | 10 castle |
| 3 dinghy | 7 crumbs | |
| 4 wrestler | 8 buoy | |

Pages 12-13

Qu quiz

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 frequent | 8 quarry | 15 squander |
| 2 opaque | 9 unique | 16 aqueduct |
| 3 squirrel | 10 square | 17 quarrel |
| 4 quit | 11 quick | 18 quartet |
| 5 tranquil | 12 conqueror | 19 queer |
| 6 aquarium | 13 quay | 20 queen |
| 7 quarter | 14 quantity | |

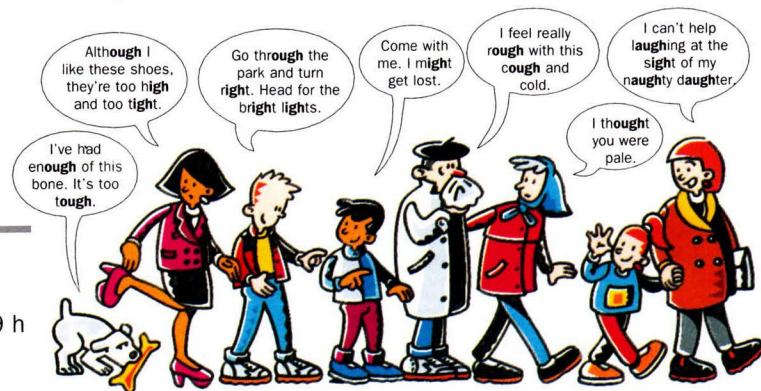
ge or dge?

- | | | |
|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 college | 7 judge | 13 hedgehog |
| 2 strange | 8 cringed | 14 damage |
| 3 emerged | 9 Midget | 15 image |
| 4 hedgehog | 10 managed | 16 exchanged |
| 5 badger | 11 ledge | 17 Smudge |
| 6 cage | 12 fidget | 18 badger |

Choose ch or tch

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 Kitchen | 10 touched | 19 ketchup |
| 2 Punch-up | 11 match | 20 punched |
| 3 sandwiches | 12 watched | 21 bench |
| 4 lunch | 13 cheered | 22 pitched |
| 5 French | 14 chased | 23 wrenching |
| 6 Dutch | 15 clutching | 24 stretcher |
| 7 scorching | 16 butcher's | 25 fetched |
| 8 chicken | 17 hatchet | 26 stitches |
| 9 switching | 18 batch | 27 crutches |

the gh trap



Pages 14-15

Guesswork

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| trans | across/beyond | auto | self |
| re | again | multi | many/much |
| hyper | too much | photo | light |
| post | after | anti | against/opposing |
| micro | very small | pre | before |
| circum | around | extra | beyond/outside |
| omni | all | mono | single |

Singled out

- antebellum - before the Civil War
- ultramodern - extremely modern
- pseudonym - a false name, such as used by an author
- demigod - a half-human, half-immortal being
- homophones - words which sound the same
- intravenous - within a vein
- megastar - a very famous personality
- hypothermia - abnormally low body temperature
- arch enemy - chief enemy

Picture this

- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|------|---------|--------|
| 1 centi | 3 semi | 5 un | 7 hemi | 9 tri |
| 2 tele | 4 super | 6 bi | 8 inter | 10 sub |

Matching pairs

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 subzero | 6 dishonest | 11 surmount |
| 2 interchange | 7 illegal | 12 precaution |
| 3 underground | 8 upstairs | 13 biannual |
| 4 misconduct | 9 irresponsible | 14 innumerable |
| 5 extraordinary | 10 return | |

Precise prefixes

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1 multicoloured | 6 underdone | 11 anticlimax |
| 2 postpone | 7 disappear | 12 dissatisfied |
| 3 autobiography | 8 decode | 13 monotone |
| 4 bilingual | 9 always | 14 transform |
| 5 preview | 10 research | 15 imperfect |

Face the opposition

disobey, unnecessary, illegible, irreplaceable, independent, improbable, illegal, miscalculations, disapproved, impossible, impatiently, irresponsible, misfortune, irreversible, dissimilar, unmanageable, indecisive, impolite

Pages 16-17

Get guessing

Did you **guess** it was me?

I'm so good at **disguising** myself that even my **colleagues** don't recognize me. I **guarantee** I'll solve any mystery, however **intriguing** it is. If you know where to look, you can always find clues to **guide** you to a **guilty** person.

At the moment, I'm undercover as a musician - that's why I have a **guitar**. But unluckily, musical notes are a foreign **language** to me. I have to be on my **guard** all the time so I don't blow my cover.

Shhhh! Someone's coming.

I'd better **get** away...

Putting an end to it

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 peaceable | 9 glanced |
| or peaceful | 10 charging |
| 2 slicing | 11 judgement |
| 3 spacious | or judgment |
| 4 unmanageable | 12 scarcely |
| 5 outrageously | 13 dancing |
| 6 spicy | 14 courageous |
| 7 noticeable | 15 balancing |
| 8 juicy | 16 advantageous |

Do you get the gist?

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 geography | 7 margin | 13 bandage |
| 2 giraffe | 8 origin | 14 savage |
| 3 image | 9 apology | 15 genius |
| 4 germs | 10 oxygen | 16 cage |
| 5 dingy | 11 stingy | |
| 6 garage | 12 giant | |

Spell soft c

- Crunch-U-Like. Try our new **cereal**! We guarantee you'll love our **recipe** of crunchy oats and **juicy citrus** fruit chunks or your money back.
- Merriman's **Circus** opens at 8pm with a **magnificent procession**. Gaze at the **precision** of knife throwers, the **concentration** of jugglers, the **grace** of trapeze artists, the **balance** of high-wire walkers. Gasp in **excitement** as Stevie Star spins two hundred **saucers** and Marvin the Marvellous **unicyclist** makes a steep **ascent** up a tightrope. Laugh at the **excellent** clowns! Be **deceived** by the world-famous magician "the Great Mysterio". See the greatest show of the **century**.
- Sample the **peace** of Writington Nature Reserve. A brief film show in our mini-**cinema introduces** the many different **species** you can see. Wander around our **circular** nature trail at your own **convenience**. Don't forget to visit the swannery where you can watch **cygnets** and parent swans in their natural habitat. Why not stop for refreshment at our self-**service** café? See you soon!

Pages 18-19

wise or wize?

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 recognized/
recognised | 6 specializes/
specialises | 10 advertised |
| 2 exercise | 7 hypnotize/
hypnotise | 11 improvise |
| 3 revised | 8 pressurized/
pressurised | 12 despise |
| 4 supervise | 9 prize | 13 criticizes/
criticises |
| 5 organized/
organised,
surprise | | 14 disguised |
| | | 15 prise |

Probably horrible

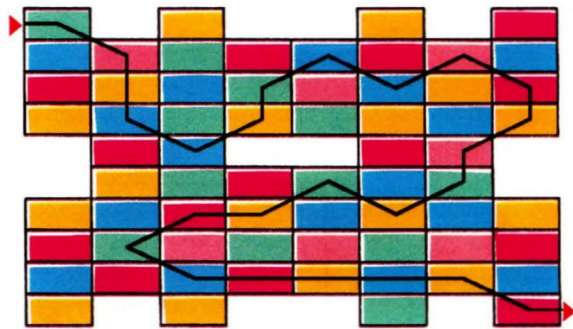
- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 convertible | 8 horrible | 15 sensible |
| 2 visible | 9 sociable | 16 responsible |
| 3 recognizable | 10 peaceable | 17 gullible |
| 4 advisable | 11 understandable | 18 possible |
| 5 unmovable | 12 incredible | 19 unforgettable |
| 6 terrible | 13 unbelievable | |
| 7 collapsible | 14 reliable | |

Possibly problematical

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 physical | 5 pickle | 9 monocle |
| 2 circle | 6 critical | 10 vehicle |
| 3 obstacle | 7 ankle | 11 bicycle |
| 4 icicle | 8 classical | 12 local |

Trail finder

The letter *a* is missing from: acquaintance, clearance, allowance, ignorant, rampant, defendant, grievance, servant, important, instant, fragrant, reluctance, perseverance, appearance, disturbance, nuisance, appliance, assistant, observant, lieutenant, attendance, tenant, resemblance, insurance, ambulance. The letter *e* is missing from all the other words in the grid. The path looks like this:



Pages 20-21

How about ous?

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1 glamorous | 5 studious | 9 rigorous |
| 2 dangerous | 6 anxious | 10 cautious |
| 3 mountainous | 7 mischievous | |
| 4 humorous | 8 laborious | |

Now you see it...

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 curiosity | 7 forty | 13 monstrous |
| 2 hindrance | 8 pronunciation | 14 vanity |
| 3 repetition | 9 waitress | 15 remembrance |
| 4 exclamation | 10 maintenance | 16 ninth |
| 5 disastrous | 11 wintry | |
| 6 administrate | 12 explanation | |

All's well that ends well

writing, celebration, amusement, renovation, exciting, amazing, scary, extremely, daring, revolving, imagine, adventurous, driving, argument, useless, persuading, tiring, noisy, behaviour, sensibly, coming, hoping, truly, invitations, likely, nervous, ridiculous

What to do with y

worry + ing = worrying	sly + ly = slyly
destroy + er = destroyer	tidy + er = tidier
hurry + ed = hurried	lazy + ly = lazily
employ + ment = employment	crazy + est = craziest
mystery + ous = mysterious	dry + ly = dryly
happy + ness = happiness	glory + ous = glorious

More combinations: worrier, worried, destroying, destroyed, hurrying, hurriedly, employer, employing, employed, mysteriously, happier, happiest, happily, tidily, tidying, tidiest, tidied, tidiness, slyness, slyest, crazier, crazily, craziness, crazied, lazier, laziest, laziness, glorying, gloried, drying, dried, drier, driest, dryness

Pages 22-23

i and e quick quiz

- | | | |
|---------|----------------|-----------|
| 1 thief | 4 field | 7 shield |
| 2 eight | 5 tie | 8 soldier |
| 3 view | 6 handkerchief | |

Missing pieces

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1 neighbours | 4 disobedient | 7 unveiled |
| 2 patience | 5 pieces of eight | 8 heir |
| 3 priest | 6 sleigh, | |
| 3 Eiffel | reindeer | |

Fierce Justice

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| 1 brief | 4 lenient | 7 achievement |
| 2 feigned | 5 society | |
| 3 relieve | 6 chief | |

Tips for Tops

- | | | |
|-----------|----------------------|------------|
| 1 protein | 4 decaffeinated | 7 relieve, |
| 2 weight | 5 variety, nutrients | anxiety |
| 3 veins | 6 leisure | 8 hygiene |

Star Spot

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|------------|
| 1 receive | 6 either | 11 foreign |
| 2 tied | 7 ingredients | 12 ancient |
| 3 friends | 8 deceive | 13 niece |
| 4 counterfeit | 9 seize | |
| 5 scientific | 10 experience | |

Pages 24-25

Missing doubles

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1 funny | 9 luggage | 17 getting |
| 2 beginning | 10 horrible | 18 irritable |
| 3 missed | 11 torrential | 19 depressed |
| 4 connection | 12 collar | 20 suddenly |
| 5 small | 13 collected | 21 dazzling |
| 6 appearance | 14 whipped | 22 opposite |
| 7 manner | 15/16 | 23 attempted |
| 8 recommend | accommodation | 24 attract |

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 25 attention | 41 shabby | 57 hurry |
| 26 accelerated | 42 little | 58 appetite |
| 27 approached | 43 cottage | 59 attacking |
| 28 collision | 44/45 | 60 shudder |
| 29 hobbled | suppressing | 61 barrel |
| 30 narrowly | 46 effort | 62 haggard |
| 31 terrible | 47 stepped | 63 expression |
| 32 accident | 48 passage | 64 sitting |
| 33 utterly | 49 immediate | 65 trigger |
| 34 surrounding | 50 assume | 66 professional |
| 35 darkness | 51 cellar | 67 villain |
| 36 pebbles | 52 offensive | 68 necessary |
| 37 puddles | 53 smell | 69 attitude |
| 38 muddy | 54 coffee | 70 motto |
| 39 eventually | 55 puzzled | 71 opportunity |
| 40 arrived | 56 occupant | 72 message |

Doubling decisions

dimly, showed, really, started, beginning, slowly, hardly, failure/failing, crossed, grabbed, recording, falling, looked, travelling, singing, hearing, cheering, opening, greatest, feeling, staying, flipping, sipping, spotted, mobbed, quitting, older, stepping, letting, getting, thinner, scrapped, jamming, deepest, dropping, forgetting, remaining, bigger

Problem patterns

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| 1 panelled | panelling | panellist |
| 2 enrolment | enrolled | enrolling |
| 3 opener | opening | openness |
| 4 modelled | modelling | |
| 5 occasional | occasionally | |
| 6 labelled | labelling | |
| 7 commoner | commonest | commonness |
| 8 quarrelsome | quarrelling | quarrelled |
| 9 forgettable | forgetting | forgetful |
| 10 committee | committing | commitment |
| 11 occurred | occurring | occurrence |
| 12 crueller | cruellest | cruelly |
| | cruelty | |
| 13 stardom | starred | starring |
| 14 commissioner | commissioning | |
| 15 equalize | equality | equalled |
| | equalling | |
| 16 happening | happened | |

Pages 26-27

Noun or verb?

- My piano teacher says that **practice** makes perfect - but I hate **practising**!
- A clairvoyant prophesied my future, but I will be surprised if her **prophecy** comes true.
- An inventor has **devised** a new **device** to wak you up in the morning.
- Everyone should buy a dog **licence** in order to **license** their dog.
- I **advised** him not to give up, but he took no notice of my good **advice**.

Sound-alike

weather, foul, meet, past, two, already, waved, saw, wait, missed, course, pouring, wandered, beach, grown, seen, compliment, dyeing, hair, told, whole, stories, aloud, bored, know, lesson, alter, maybe, so, sure, led, ensure, write, stationery, piece

-Pages 26-27 continued-

Can you do better?

SPORT Ike is skillful on the football field and in the swimming pool.

MUSIC More self-discipline and practice are necessary, but Ike has a good sense of rhythm.

DRAMA IKE ENJOYS BOTH TRAGEDY AND COMEDY AND IS A TALENTED CHARACTER ACTOR.

MATHS Ike has benefitted from attending extra classes. He has definitely improved, but still makes faults through carelessness.

GEOGRAPHY Ike's project on equatorial rain forests was very knowledgeable.

SCIENCE Ike is uninterested in science and loses concentration easily. He also displays a tendency to talk. During practical work in the laboratory he meddles with the equipment. His techniques are very disappointing.

HISTORY Ike has a thorough understanding of the Ancient World, especially of the lives of the Roman emperors. He has enjoyed learning about the gods and goddesses of Greek mythology.

ENGLISH Although Ike makes little errors in his grammar, his creative writing is generally excellent. His descriptions are perceptive and often humorous. We have been grateful for his assistance in the library this year. As usual, Ike is top of the class at spelling.

Can you get there?

- 1 Look! **There's** Michelle!
- 2 Look at that, over **there**!
- 3 I know **they're** going away today.
- 4 **Their** house is huge.
- 5 I want one just like **theirs**.
- 6 **There's** been a dreadful accident.
- 7 Drop it! It's **theirs**.
- 8 **There's** been a snowfall overnight.
- 9 I liked **their** friends.
- 10 Have some more. **There's** plenty left.
- 11 I hate going **there**.
- 12 **They're** always arguing.

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 American English 3
 apostrophe 6
 Australian English 3

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 ge/dge 12, 13
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 qu 26
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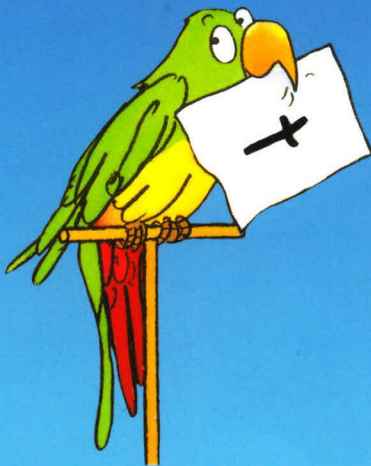


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