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Further Guidance and Spelling Rules Which May Be Covered In Years 5 or 6



'cious' and 'tious'

Either during year 5 or 6, children will learn the spelling patterns using the above endings. If the root word ends in 'ce' then 'cious' is added, e.g grace – gracious.

We use 'dge' after a short vowel sound but 'ge' after any other sound.

At other points within the word, a letter 'g' is used before letters y, i or e, such as gem and magic. A 'j' is used before u, o or a, such as join and adjust.

'cial' or 'tial'

Other spelling patterns such as 'cial' and 'tial' may be introduced. The 'tial' ending comes after a consonant letter whereas 'cial' is common after a vowel, e.g special and partial.

Exceptions: include, financial, provincial and commercial.

words ending in 'ant', 'ance', 'ation', 'ancy', 'ent', 'ence' and 'ency'

These common spelling patterns may be learned in either year 5 or 6, e.g pendant, appearance, toleration and hesitancy.

adding suffixes to words ending in 'fer'

This rule applies if the suffix begins with vowel letters. The 'r' is doubled if the 'fer' is still stressed when the suffix is added, e.g preferred. The 'r' isn't doubled if the 'fer' isn't stressed anymore e.g reference.

the 'i' before 'e' except after 'c' rule

Children may be taught that this rule applies to words such as ceiling and receive. They might also look into any possible exceptions.

Other spelling patterns which may be taught include words containing 'ough' and words with silent letters such as knight and thistle.