

OVERALL TABLE OF CONTENTS

Spelling Lists (Tests) and Spelling-Related Lists

Spelling Lists (Tests)

Long A
Aw as in Saw
Er Sounds
Long E
Long O
Long I
Ow Sounds
Sh, Zh Sounds
Silent Letters

Spelling-Related Lists

Words Ending in “L”
Rule 10 Words
Groups of Confusing Spellings
Mispronounced, thus Misspelled Words
Curious Spelling Changes from One Word Form to Another

Other Lists and Worksheets

Conjunctive Adverbs and Transitional Phrases
Emotional Events
Emotions and Emotion-Related Words
Facial Expressions
Facial Features, Hands
Homographs
Idioms
Irregular Verbs
Moral/Ethical Vocabulary
Multiple-Meaning Words
Powerful Verbs (Other ways to say “said” and “went”)
Irregular Verbs Worksheet
Subjective and Objective Pronouns Worksheet
Who, Whom Worksheet

Figures and Other Resource Materials

3.1 Questions for Partners to Ask Each Other
4.1 Respect Book Template
6.3 Proofreader’s Marks
20.1 Sample Editorial
20.2 Student Editorials
20.3 Elian Gonzalez Cartoon
20.4 School Uniforms Cartoon
20.5 National Enquirer Cartoon
21.2 Note-Taking Card
21.3 Subject Synonym Sheet
21.4 Topic Outline
23.2 Oral Presentation Assessment Rubric
Editorial Topics
Sample Persuasive Essay

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Curious Spelling Changes from One Word Form to Another

Long ā (a_e, ea, ai, ei, ay, ey, eigh)

bare

beige

clay

eight

feign

survey

gate

slay

break

vein

campaign

freight

pare

rain

rein

whale

sleigh

strait

pray

shape

Long ā (a_e, ea, ai, ei, ay, ey, eigh)

bear

faint

prey

grate

feint

gait

slate

neigh

surveillance

reindeer

obey

complain

pale

pear

reign

restrain

payday

straight

neighbor

steak

Aw as in 'saw' (aw, au, ough, augh)

claw

bought

sought

taut

taught

thought

haughty

applause

fraught

maw

fought

awning

ought

shawl

brawn

crawl

caught

daughter

nautical

plausible

Aw as in 'saw' (aw, au, ough, augh)

fault

naughty

fawn

taunt

cause

thaw

flaws

daunting

maul

brought

haunt

cough

trough

yawn

autumn

bawl

withdrawal

laud

gnaw

lawyer

*Er sounds: Bert's bird burps worms early
(er, ir, ur, wor, ear)*

fertile

turkey

heard

circle

world

perky

further

dearth

girdle

worship

work

worm

merge

alert

squirt

twirl

disturb

furrow

desert

pearl

*Er sounds: Bert's bird burps worms early
(er, ir, ur, wor, ear)*

thirst

worry

shepherd

sturdy

earnest

stirring

worst

vertical

urn

earth

berm

verge

clergy

dessert

flirt

splurge

purpose

curb

concern

squirm

Long ē (ē, e_e, ee, ea, ie, ei, ey)

recipe

steal

seize

mete

beat

either

eke

creature

ceiling

streak

appeal

believe

calliope

monkey

bleed

neither

sneeze

year

tear

peace

Long ē (ē, e_e, ee, ea, ie, ei, ey)

steel

field

mere

fleece

yield

journey

career

niece

money

shield

beetle

beneath

leisure

ether

protein

weird

wield

tier

feature

piece

Long ō (ō, o_e, ou, oe, oa, ough, ow, oo)

snore

floe

although

floor

pour

piccolo

shadow

clone

flown

dough

below

borough

burrow

grown

oboe

row

soar

croak

hoe

though

Long ō (ō, o_e, ou, oe, oa, ough, ow, oo)

your

gloat

tomorrow

mote

mistletoe

thorough

door

four

moat

harrow

board

borrow

coarse

minnow

roast

roe

solo

follow

chore

toast

Long ī (ī, i_e, y, ei, igh)

icon

height

cacti

slight

fungi

imply

fright

rabbi

confine

sign

sarcophagi

alibi

die

fiber

high

kite

site

quite

right

nuclei

Long ī (ī, i_e, y, ei, igh)

sty

sigh

sleight

might

horrify

satisfy

cite

stein

benign

tie-dye

flight

cyanide

octopi

Geiger counter

gigantic

nylon

plight

rye

resign

rite

Ow as in cloud (ou, ough, ow)

cloud

chowder

shroud

scout

bowsprit

scow

ground

flower

slouch

vowel

flour

meow

plough

about

counter

gadabout

announcement

downside

coward

bower

Ow as in cloud (ou, ough, ow)

drought

cowboy

clown

bough

sprout

tower

trout

shower

spouse

ouch

jowl

plowshare

boundary

pound

espouse

countenance

bountiful

downspout

drought

trowel

Sh, zh words

martial

vision

excruciating

fusion

ocean

substantial

regime

seizure

marshal

equation

electrician

passion

beige

lesion

casual

confusion

musician

financial

initial

unusual

Sh, zh words

delicious

fission

official

mission

pleasure

special

facial

officious

precious

crucial

permission

tension

torsion

judicial

logician

magician

provincial

omniscient

demolition

version

Silent Letters

comb

indict

exhibit

gnome

condemn

rhubarb

knee

scissors

wrist

raspberry

fascinated

salmon

knuckle

scent

plumber

rhinoceros

moisten

thistle

Champagne

aghast

Silent Letters

gnu

tomb

knot

wrangle

Arkansas

wrought

knack

knoll

mortgage

numb

dumb

coup

silhouette

honest

rhetoric

scenic

limb

psychic

island

Christmas

Silent Letters

know

receipt

aisle

science

listen

wrap

hasten

gnash

cupboard

knit

gnat

lamb

rhyme

wreck

knock

pneumatic

whistle

muscle

hour

psychiatrist

Silent Letters

honor

foreign

ghetto

mnemonic

apostle

exhaust

vehicle

solemn

pseudonym

campaign

feign

wrong

sword

ghost

Rhode Island

pneumonia

knob

solder

benign

crumb

Silent Letters

wriggle

exhort

corps

ghoul

descend

glisten

resign

exhilarating

vehement

sovereign

rapport

thumb

climb

debt

fasten

subtle

reign

gherkin

Connecticut

tsunami

Silent Letters

chalk

Illinois

wrestle

gnaw

gnarly

ghastly

plumb

knight

wright

psalm

debut

ascent

knapsack

wring

rhythm

doubt

wrinkle

sign

align

soften

WORDS ENDING IN “L”

The “l” sound that we hear at the ends of words is often spelled *-le* (little, apple, whistle, tile), but two-syllable words that end in “l,” and are preceded by a vowel, are especially tricky for youngsters. Use the following—mostly two-syllable— words to create spelling lists and build your students’ vocabularies.

annual	furl	morsel
anvil	gimbal(s)	mortal
aural	global	mural
Babel	gravel	mussel
basil	GreteI	nasal
bevel	grovel	naval
bezel	gunnel	navel
boreal	Handel	newel
bushel	hazel	nickel
cabal	hospital	nominal
cancel	hovel	normal
carol	idol	nostril
carrel	infidel	novel
choral	jackal	official
coral	kennel	opal
cymbal	kernel	oral
Cyril	label	oriel
doggerel	laurel	oval
easel	lentil	panel
equal	level	Papal
facial	lintel	passel
familial	literal	pedal
fecal	mantel	pedestal
fennel	marvel	perpetual
feral	medal	petal
final	medieval	pistil
finial	mental	pistol
floral	metal	pivotal
focal	missal	pommel
fossil	modal	portal
frugal	model	primal
funeral	mogul	principal
fungal	mongrel	pummel
funnel	moral	quarrel

WORDS ENDING IN “L”

rascal
reciprocal
rival
sandal
satchel
scandal
scoundrel
shovel
shrivel
sisal
snorkel
sorrel
special
spiral
squirrel
symbol
tassel
tidal
trammel
travel
tunnel
twirl
vial
viral
vital
vocal
weasel
whirl
whorl

RULE 10 WORDS

Spaulding's Rule 10 pertains to two-syllable words that end in a consonant preceded by a vowel. If the root word is accented on the first syllable, do not double the final consonant before adding endings such as *-ed* and *-ing*. If the accent is on the second syllable, double the consonant.

If the accent is on the first syllable, do not double the consonant:

alter	flatter	model
badger	hammer	mother
border	harbor	motor
borrow	harrow	murder
burrow	label	vomit
cancel	layer	wander
clamor	limit	water
color	litter	wonder
cover	major	worship
edit	marvel	
factor	mentor	

If the accent is on the second syllable, double the consonant:

abet	control	rappel
abhor	corral	rebel
acquit	defer	recur
admit	demur	refer
allot	deter	regret
benefit	excel	remit
begin	incur	repel
combat	occur	reput
commit	omit	submit
concur	permit	
confer	prefer	

GROUPS OF CONFUSING SPELLINGS

Some of the words on this list are homophones, some are mistaken for one another, but all can be a challenge for children to spell. Display the groups in your classroom as vocabulary builders and incorporate them into your spelling curriculum.

aisle	demure	modal
I'll	demur	model
isle		mottle
	desperate	
allusion	disparate	moral
illusion	despair	morel
away	discomfit	Moro
aweigh	discomfort	morro (Spanish)
		morrow
bazaar	fascia	marrow
bizarre	facial	
	fascist	muscle
borrow	fashion	mussel
barrow	fuchsia	
barrel		paddle
beryl	feign	pedal
borough	faint	peddle
burrow	feint	petal
burro	fake	puddle
canvas	gauge, gage	peer
canvass	gouge	pier
	gauche	pure
collared	gouache	pear
collard		pair
colored	heroine	pare
	heroin	
college		pistil
collage	mantel	pistol
colleague	mantle	
collegial	mental	plaintiff
	medal	plaintive
coral	meddle	
corral	metal	pommel
chorale	mettle	pummel
choral		
carol	missal	pore
carrel	missile	pour
carrot	mistletoe	poor
caret		
karat		

GROUPS OF CONFUSING SPELLINGS

principal
principle

rain
reign
rein

rappel
repel
repeal

regimen
regiment
regime

relieve
relive
relevé

revere
revel
reveille
revile
reveal

suppose
supposed
supposedly
supposable
supposably

vial
vile
viral

with
wither
whether
weather
whither
withers

MISPRONOUNCED, THUS MISPELLED, WORDS

Correct Spelling	Mispronunciation and/or Misspelling	Correct Spelling	Mispronunciation and/or Misspelling
affidavit	<i>affidavid</i>	anticyclimactic	<i>anticyclimatic</i>
asterisk(s)	<i>asterix/asteriks</i>	athlete	<i>athalete</i>
bazaar	<i>bizarre</i>	bizarre	<i>bazaar</i>
biceps	<i>bicepts</i>	comfortable	<i>comfterble</i>
could have, should have, would have	<i>could of, should of, would of</i>	cowlick	<i>colic</i>
different	<i>differnt</i>	disgust	<i>discust</i>
drowned	<i>drownded</i>	environment	<i>envirement</i>
et cetera	<i>ek cetera</i>	February	<i>Febuary</i>
government	<i>goverment</i>	isthmus	<i>ithsmus</i>
jewelry	<i>jewlery</i>	nuclear	<i>nuculer</i>
ophthalmology	<i>opthamology</i>	picture	<i>pitcher</i>
realtor	<i>relator</i>	probably	<i>probly</i>
recognize	<i>reconnize</i>	restaurateur	<i>restranteur</i>
sacrilegious	<i>sacreligious</i>	since	<i>sense</i>
sherbet	<i>sherbert</i>	strength	<i>strenth</i>
suffrage	<i>sufferage</i>	supposed	<i>sposed</i>
supposedly	<i>supposably</i>	temperament	<i>temperment</i>
used to	<i>use to</i>	Valentine's Day	<i>Valentime's Day</i>
verbiage	<i>verbage</i>	veterinarian	<i>vetranarian</i>
Wednesday	<i>Wensday</i>	whether	<i>wether</i>
which	<i>wich</i>	you're	<i>your</i>

CURIOUS SPELLING CHANGES FROM ONE WORD FORM TO ANOTHER

This author was tutoring a small group of immigrant students when he observed a larger, more advanced, group struggling to understand the mechanical nuances (like those below) that their instructor was trying to explain; as a result, he started a collection for you, dear reader, to use as you see fit.

abound, but abundance
absorb, but absorption
abstain, but abstention, abstinence
acclaim, but acclamation
animus, but animosity
anxious, but anxiety
appeal, but appellate
cocoa (the powder), but cacao (the seed from which it's made)
conceive, but conception
consume, but consumption
curious, but curiosity
deceive, but deception
denounce, but denunciation
describe, but description
doubt, but dubious
eat, but edible
enounce, but enunciation
equal; equality, but equity, equilibrium, equivalent, equidistant
exclaim, but exclamation, exclamatory
explain, but explanation
fire, but fiery
four; fourteen, but forty
governor, but gubernatorial
grain, but granular, granola, granary
grateful, but gratitude
heir, but inherit
high, but height
luminous, but luminosity
maintain, but maintenance
memory, but memento
monster, but monstrous, monstrosity
omit, but omission
pertain, but pertinent, impertinence
porous, but porosity

CURIOUS SPELLING CHANGES FROM ONE WORD FORM TO ANOTHER

practice, but practitioner
proceed, but procession
proclaim, but proclamation
pronounce, but pronunciation
receive, but reception, receipt
redeem, but redemption
refrigerator, but “fridge”
remain, but remnant
remember, but remembrance
repair, but reparable, irreparable, reparation
repeat, but repetition
restaurant, but restaurateur
reveal, but revelation, revelatory
sheep, but shepherd
speak, but speech
strain, but strenuous
strong, but strength
sustain, but sustenance
thorax, but thoracic
vain, but vanity
vertex, but vertices
viscous, but viscosity
wonder, but wondrous