

Year 4 Spelling: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to spelling can help you support your child's learning at home. Each subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing all the resources you need to understand how the spelling patterns work in each year group along with techniques and resources to help you support your child.

Within this area of the website, you will find a selection of materials and activities intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

 

We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Spelling

How Is Spelling Taught in Year 4?

In years 3 and 4, spelling work follows a set list (often referred to as 'statutory spellings') that is required by the national curriculum, but can be taught in a pattern chosen by the school. Primary schools often organise their spelling programme to link with other aspects of their literacy curriculum.

While children still need to practise words that don't follow the spelling rules, these 'common exception words' from years 1 and 2 should now be recognisable on sight. Your child will learn to spell new words correctly and should have plenty of opportunity to practise spelling them. At this stage, learning focuses on words that are often misspelt.

Apostrophes and Spelling

In years 3 and 4, children learn to place possessive apostrophes correctly; they need to be placed accurately in words with regular plurals (e.g. girls', boys') and in words with irregular plurals (e.g. children's). We would write 'the boy's trousers' because the trousers belong to one boy. However, at school we write 'the boys' toilets' because the toilets are for the use of more than one boy.

Word Search Maker

Encourage your child to make a word search with some of the spellings they're currently learning. They may find this easier to do on grid paper (with a letter in each box) or on the computer. Who will they challenge to find the words? They could present it to you, another family member, or their friends. If their friends are also learning those spellings, they could even both make a word search and challenge each other.

Create an Anagram Puzzle

Take your child's spelling list and rearrange the letters in each word; you could do this written on a normal piece of paper, or else cut up some smaller pieces with the letters on them and arrange them on a flat surface. Can your child get the letters back into the right pattern to form one of their spelling words?

Compute That Word

When children take ownership over their work and space, they are more likely to connect and take notice. Have them write out some spelling words on the computer, using different fonts and colours. They could even add some pictures that correspond with the words written. Print out their posters and display in a prominent place where they might do their homework.

Make a Mini Dictionary

Using their spelling list from school, your child could sort the words into alphabetical order and write them out with a definition next to each one. Understanding the how and when a word is used can help your child to contextualise what they're learning. For an extra challenge, can your child also identify whether each word is a noun, verb, adjective, etc.?



Step 1

Handwriting and Repeated Practice

These helpful sheets allow your child to practise the required (statutory) spellings from years 3 and 4 through repetition. While you need to be selective with which spellings to use in previous years, your child will need to have mastered all the words by the end of year 4, so you can afford to include words that your child has already learnt. We've included different stages of handwriting (i.e. precursive, cursive and print) in the packs too, so that you can choose a style that is best suited to your child and their stage of writing.



Practising Statutory Spellings

Once your child has practised the spellings in handwriting, it's time to encounter them in a variety of contexts and ways so that familiarity builds and recognising the spelling patterns becomes second nature. This bumper spelling pack has a huge variety of resources to make your child's learning of spellings far more interesting and engaging. If you use the search term 'year 4 spellings', you'll find a wide range of similar bumper packs. You can choose to either use them in the order Twinkl suggests or match the pack you use to the spellings your child is currently working on in school. We suggest using these packs as an occasional pick up and put down activity during the week rather than as an extended task in a single sitting. This way, your child continues to get regular exposure to spellings without overwhelm or exhaustion.

Step 2

Step 3

Get Marking With Mr Whoops!

At this age, children love to pretend to be the teacher. This pack contains a list of the statutory spellings for year 3 and 4 and a range of activity sheets where Mr Whoops has been terribly clumsy with his spelling; your child will be encouraged to spot the mistakes and correct his work. Encourage your child to improve the spelling errors and to learn the skill of spotting mistakes when rereading and editing work. We suggest reviewing both year 3 and 4 spellings to ensure that your child does not lose some of the spelling patterns and exceptions they've learnt in previous years.



Statutory Spellings Crosswords

Crosswords are more difficult than word searches and children soon find that if they don't spell words correctly, the crossword doesn't work. Use the crosswords when your child does not have access to their spelling word list so that they need to concentrate on spelling each word correctly. Crosswords also check if your child knows the meaning of the word. At the end, let your child have a dictionary to check the spellings and see if the clue matches the dictionary's definition.

Step 4

Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



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Go!



twinkl
Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!



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Boost

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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ORIGINALS

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!