

Some spelling strategies and rules



The multi-sensory literacy encourages pupils to consider spelling rules, the position of graphemes and origin of words when learning spellings.

Position

The position of a sound in a word (phoneme) can help with spelling choices.

- Long vowel sounds have spelling choices based on their position in a syllable. See table below with most common spellings in bold.

	Beginning	Middle	End
/ā/	a	a-e ai ei eigh ea aigh	ay ey ae
/ē/	e	ee ea ie ei e-e	ee (y) ey
/ī/	i y	i-e igh y-e	y ie
/ō/	o	o-e oa	ow oe o
/ū/	u eu	u-e eu	ew ue

- /d/ at the beginning is spelled **d**. At end it is **d** or **ed**
- /t/ at the beginning is spelled **t**. At end it is **t** or **ed**.
- /k/ at the beginning is spelled **c** or **k** or **ch**. At end it usually **k** or **ck**.
- /j/ at the beginning is spelled **j** or **g**. At the end is **ge** or **dge**.
- /s/ at the beginning is spelled **s** or **c**. At end it is **ss** or **ce**.
- /z/ at the beginning of a word is **z**. At end it is **s zz** or **ze**.
- /ow/ at the middle of a word is **ou**. At end it is **ow**, e.g. cloud/cow



Some Spelling Rules

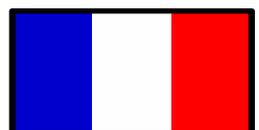
Below are some key spelling rules:

- The letter **q** is always followed by a **u**.
- /v/ at the end of a word is spelled **ve**.
- **x** and **w** are never doubled.
- **w** affects the sound of the following vowel: **wa** is said \wɔ\ ; **war** is said \wɔr\ ; **wor** is said \wer\.
- /f/ /l/ /s/ are spelled **ff ll ss** at the end of one syllable words - flossy rule.
- At the end of one syllable words after a short vowel sound: /k/ is spelled **ck** (exception *yak*); /j/ is spelled **dge**; /ch/ is spelled **tch**.
- No English word ends in **i**, excepted words that come from other languages such as *ski, kiwi* and abbreviations such as *taxi (taximeter)* and *mini*
- **all** and **full** drop the second **l** when added to words: *always, wonderful*
- *i before e except after c when the grapheme ie or ei spells /ē/.*
- **Split digraph**: **e** makes the vowel before it long when there is only one consonant between the vowels, e.g. *cane, hike, stone*.

For more spelling rules, see the **Spelling Rule Book** by SEN Marketing

Some basic rules based on word origins

- In words that come from Greek origins: /f/ is spelled **ph**, (*phobia, phone, photo*); /k/ is spelled **ch** (*echo, chemist, school*)
- In words that come from French: (sh) is spelled **ch** (*chef, chalet, machine*); /k/ is spelled **que** (*unique, plaque*)



Some Alternative Spelling Options



Sound	Spelling options	Examples
/ā/	a, a-e, ai, ea ay, eigh, ei, ey, ae, aigh	acorn, rake, wait, great, tray, eight, reins, grey, sundae, straight
/ĕ/	e, ea	egg, head
/ē/	e, ee, ea, e-e, ie, ei, ey (y)	equals, teeth, seat, centipede, shield, ceiling, key, (baby)
/ɪ/	i, y, ui	igloo, cymbals, built
/i/	i, i-e, igh, y, y-e, ie,	iron, pipe, fight, cry, type, tie
/ō/	o, a	opt, watch , qualify , salt
/ō/	o, o-e, oa, ow, oe, ough	open, cone, coat, glow, oboe, dough
/ū/	u, o, ou, oo	hut, oven, double, book
/ū/ (y-oo)	u, u-e, ew, ue, eu	unit, tune, flew, cue, euphoria/neutral
/air/	are, air, ear, ere	square, flair, bear, where
/er/	er, ir, ur, ear, (w)or	herb, thirst, purse, pearl, worm
/eer/	eer, ear, ere, ier	deer, ears, adhere, cashier
/oi/	oi, oy	foil, toy
/oo/	oo, u, u-e, ou, ui, ew, ue	moon, lupin, flute, soup, juice, brew, sue
/or/	or, ore, oar, oor, au, al, aw, augh, ough	fork, snore, oar, door, august, walk, flaw, caught, thought
/ow/	ou, ow	proud, cow
/b'l/	ble, bel	bible, rebel
/ch/	ch, tch	chunk, watch
/d/	d, ed	den, wandered
/d'l/	dle, del	ladle, model
/f/	f, ff, ph,	fox, cuff, phone
/f'l	fle, ful	rifle, careful
/g/	g, gh, gu, gue	goat, ghastly, guest, catalogue
/g'l/	gle, gal	jungle, frugal
/id/	id, ed	did, wanted

Sound	Spelling options	Examples
/j/	j, g, ge, dge	jet, wage, gem, badge
/k/	c, k, ck, ch, que	cat, kit, duck, chaos, plaque
/k'l/	kle, ckle, cle	ankle, pickle, cycle
/l/	l, ll, le	leg, fill, apple
/m/	m, mb, lm, mn	man, climb, calm, column
/n/	n, kn, gn, pn,	nip, knit, gnat, pneumonia
/r/	r, wr, rh	red, wrist, rhyme
/s/	s, c, ss, ce, se, sc	sun, cell miss, lance, horse, science,
schwa /ə/	er, or, our, ar, a, e, o, ough	farmer, tractor, harbour, collar, alone, drivel, lemon, thorough
/sh/	sh, ch,	ship, chef
/sh'n/	tion, sion, cian	station, pension, electrician
/sk/	sc, sk	scan, skip
/s'l/	sel, ssle, stle	tinsel, hassle, castle
/t/	t, ed	tap, jumped
/v/	v, ve	vet, serve
/w/	w, wh	wit, what
/z/	z, s, zz, ze, se	zoo, rose, fizz, breeze, cheese

