

# Spelling in Year 5 (age 9–10)

In Year 5, your child will be spelling more complicated words with increased accuracy.

Read on to discover the National Curriculum expectations for spelling in Year 5, and to find out how you can support your child at home.

## What your child will learn

Take a look at the National Curriculum expectations for spelling in Year 5 (age 9–10):

**Using more prefixes and suffixes**

**Spelling some words with ‘silent’ letters**

**Knowing the difference between homophones and other confusing words**

**Using morphology and etymology in spelling**

**Checking spellings in a dictionary**

**Using a thesaurus**

## How to help at home

There are lots of ways you can help your Year 5 child with spelling. Here are our top ideas.

### 1. Help with spelling homework

If your child is struggling with a spelling list they have been asked to learn, here are a few ideas to help:

- Remind your child to regularly check through their writing for spelling errors. They need to develop a feel for whether a word looks right. They could underline words they are not sure of and then check with a dictionary.
- Use over-pronunciation. So for *Wednesday*, encourage children to say *Wed-nes-day* as they write. There are lots of words which feature sounds that aren't always pronounced clearly (such as words ending in *-ed*), and over-emphasising these while spelling them out can help fix the spelling in your child's memory.
- Ask your child to write down the words that they need to remember how to spell. The physical act of writing the words by hand helps to anchor the spelling in children's memories and encourages them to think about the letters that represent the sounds in the word. Typing the words into a PC or tablet isn't as effective.

- Focus your child's attention on the tricky bits in a word by asking them to highlight them. For example, show them that *said* has 'ai' in the middle and ask them to write the word, and then highlight or underline this part to help them remember. Few resources are more motivating than a highlighter pen for primary-aged children!

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## **2. Play spelling games**

Playing games can help children to learn about spelling in an enjoyable way. Watch grammar expert Charlotte Raby's video 'How can I help my child with grammar, punctuation and spelling?' to see some fun and easy games:

### **How can I help my child with SPaG?**

Online games such as [Word worm](#) can be motivating, and so can more traditional games like hangman. Making silly [sentences](#) can be great fun too. Challenge your child to write a silly sentence, including as many of the words on their spelling list as possible.

For example, your child may have to learn 'room took hoop foot book'. They could make up a silly sentence such as 'The boy took his book across the room but got his foot caught in a hoop'. Why not draw illustrations to go with the sentences?

## **3. Find the right resources**

Learning to spell is a gradual process and mastering English's complex spelling system can take time. All children are different: some pick up spelling quickly, while others take longer. Whatever their level, we have lots of [free spelling activities](#) to support them.