NAPLAN Year 3 Spelling List

200 words grouped by spelling rule. Learn one group a week: say, cover, write, check.

1. Long a: a_e, ai, ay

Rule: *ai* is usually in the middle of a word, *ay* is at the end.

cake, plane, shape, rain, train, paint, chain, wait, play, stay, away, today, always, birthday

2. Long e: ee, ea, e_e, y

Rule: *ee* and *ea* are both common in the middle. A *y* at the end of a two-syllable word often says "ee".

green, sleep, street, between, beach, dream, teach, reason, these, complete, happy, every, family, really

3. Long i: i_e, igh, y, ie

Rule: *igh* is common before *t*. A *y* at the end of a one-syllable word says "eye".

smile, inside, light, night, bright, frighten, sky, fly, why, tried, cried, pie

4. Long o: o_e, oa, ow

Rule: *oa* is usually in the middle, *ow* is often at the end.

stone, close, those, boat, coat, road, float, snow, grow, yellow, window, below

5. oo, ew, ue, ou

school, room, spoon, choose, new, flew, threw, blue, true, glue, group, soup, through

6. ar, or, er, ir, ur

Rule: *er*, *ir* and *ur* make the same sound, so these just have to be learnt.

start, garden, sharp, horse, storm, before, morning, her, never, water, bird, first, girl, turn, hurt, Thursday

7. Consonant teams: ch, sh, th, wh, ph, ck

Rule: *ck* comes straight after a short vowel (*back*, *quick*). After a long vowel or a consonant, use *k* (*bake*, *milk*).

chair, lunch, catch, kitchen, shell, wish, fresh, thank, brother, think, white, where, which, phone, elephant, back, quick, pocket

8. Soft c and soft g

Rule: *c* says "s" and *g* often says "j" before *e*, *i* or *y*.

city, circle, face, dance, ice, pencil, giant, giraffe, page, large, orange, bridge

9. Doubling before -ing and -ed

Rule: for a short word with one short vowel and one final consonant, double the consonant before adding *-ing* or *-ed*.

running, swimming, stopped, hopped, shopping, sitting, planned, dropped

10. Drop the e before -ing and -ed

Rule: if a word ends in a silent *e*, drop the *e* before adding *-ing* or *-ed*.

making, riding, hoping, liked, smiled, writing, coming, danced

11. Change y to i

Rule: if a word ends in a consonant plus *y*, change *y* to *i* before adding *-es*, *-ed*, *-er* or *-est*. Keep the *y* before *-ing*.

cries, tried, happier, easiest, babies, families, carried, (but: crying, carrying)

12. Plurals: -s and -es

Rule: add *-es* after *s*, *x*, *z*, *ch* and *sh*.

boxes, buses, foxes, wishes, lunches, brushes, dishes, glasses

13. Prefixes and suffixes

unhappy, untidy, redo, return, helpful, careful, slowly, quickly, careless, hopeless, darkness, kindness

14. Compound words

birthday, playground, sometimes, something, everyone, outside, afternoon, football, bedroom, sunshine

15. Homophones

Rule: these sound the same but mean different things, so the sentence decides the spelling.

there, their, they're, to, too, two, here, hear, where, wear, see, sea, write, right

16. Tricky words that don't follow the rules

because, said, friend, people, could, would, should, again, does, once, laugh, enough, beautiful, different, believe, February, Wednesday, knew, knife, sure

17. Australian spellings

colour, favourite, neighbour, centre, metre, travelled, practise (to do), practice (the noun)