

Year 5

Spelling & Vocabulary List



The official Year 5 spelling and vocabulary words, with meanings, examples and how to say each one.

What this list is. This is the Year 5 half of the statutory Years 5/6 National Curriculum spelling list, taken directly from the National Curriculum spelling programme of study. Every word includes its word type, a kid-friendly meaning, an example sentence and a simple guide to how it sounds.

50 words

44 tricky spellings

How to say each one

How to use this list. Read through a few words a day rather than the whole list in one sitting. For each word flagged **TRICKY**, say the word out loud, cover it, write it from memory, then check. The “why it's tricky” note explains exactly what usually goes wrong.

Want these words as interactive flashcards with a match game and a spelling test? Practise them free at pip11plus.com/11-plus-vocabulary-year-5, or read the full [Year 5 11+ preparation guide](#).



FULL LIST

Words 1 to 10 of 50

accommodate VERB

TRICKY

uh-KOM-uh-dayt

to have room for, or to provide a place for someone.

"The hall is big enough to accommodate the whole school."

Why it's tricky Double 'c', double 'm'.

according ADVERB

uh-KOR-ding

as stated or shown by (usually 'according to').

"According to the weather report, it will snow tomorrow."

aggressive ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

uh-GRESS-iv

behaving in an angry or forceful way, ready to attack.

"The dog became aggressive when a stranger came near."

Why it's tricky Double 'g', double 's'.

ancient ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

AYN-shunt

very old, from a long time ago.

"We visited the ruins of an ancient castle."

Why it's tricky 'ci' makes a 'sh' sound.

appreciate VERB

TRICKY

uh-PREE-shee-ayt

to be grateful for something, or to value it.

"I really appreciate all your help with my homework."

Why it's tricky Double 'p'; 'ci' sounds like 'sh'.

available ADJECTIVE

uh-VAY-luh-bul

able to be used or got hold of.

"There were no seats available on the busy train."

awkward ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

AWK-wurd

clumsy, or making you feel uncomfortable.

"There was an awkward silence after his joke fell flat."

Why it's tricky 'wk' together with no vowel between.

bruise NOUN

TRICKY

brooz

a dark mark on the skin after a knock or bump.

"She got a big bruise on her knee when she fell."

Why it's tricky 'ui' makes the 'oo' sound; silent 'e'.

cemetery NOUN

TRICKY

SEM-uh-tree

a place where dead people are buried.

"The old cemetery had gravestones covered in moss."

Why it's tricky Three 'e's, no 'a'; ends in '-ery'.

communicate VERB

TRICKY

kuh-MYOO-nuh-kayt

to share information or feelings with others.

"Bees communicate with each other by dancing."

Why it's tricky Double 'm'.

competition NOUN

TRICKY

kom-puh-TISH-un

a contest where people try to win.

"He came first in the swimming competition."

Why it's tricky 'ti' makes a 'sh' sound.

conscious ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

KON-shus

awake and aware of what is happening.

"She stayed conscious after the bump on her head."

Why it's tricky Silent 'c' in 'sc'; 'ci' sounds like 'sh'.

convenience NOUN

TRICKY

kun-VEEN-yunss

the quality of being easy and helpful to use.

"We shopped at the corner store for convenience."

Why it's tricky 'ie' after the 'n'; ends in '-ence'.

criticise VERB

TRICKY

KRIT-uh-syze

to say what is wrong with something or someone.

"It is easy to criticise, but harder to do better yourself."

Why it's tricky British spelling ends in '-ise'.

definite ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

DEF-uh-nit

certain and clearly decided.

"We have a definite plan to visit the zoo on Saturday."

Why it's tricky It's '-finite', not '-fanite'.

determined ADJECTIVE

dih-TUR-mind

having made a firm decision and not giving up.

"She was determined to finish the race no matter what."

dictionary NOUN

TRICKY

DIK-shuh-nuh-ree

a book that lists words and what they mean.

"Look up the new word in your dictionary."

Why it's tricky 'ti' sounds like 'sh'; ends in '-ary'.

embarrass VERB

TRICKY

im-BARR-uss

to make someone feel shy or uncomfortable.

"Please don't embarrass me in front of my friends."

Why it's tricky Double 'r', double 's'.

equipment NOUN

TRICKY

ih-KWIP-munt

the tools or things needed for an activity.

"We packed all the camping equipment into the car."

Why it's tricky 'qu' makes a 'kw' sound; no 'e' before '-ment'.

exaggerate VERB

TRICKY

ig-ZAJ-uh-rayt

to make something sound bigger or more than it really is.

"Don't exaggerate; it wasn't that scary."

Why it's tricky Double 'g'.

existence NOUN

TRICKY

ig-ZIS-tunss

the state of being real or alive.

"Dinosaurs came into existence millions of years ago."
Why it's tricky Ends in '-ence', not '-ance'.

familiar ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

fuh-MIL-yur

well known to you, or easy to recognise.

"Her face looked familiar, but I couldn't remember her name."
Why it's tricky Ends in '-iar', not '-ier'.

forty NOUN

TRICKY

FOR-tee

the number 40.

"There were forty children in the assembly hall."
Why it's tricky No 'u': it's 'forty', not 'fourty'.

government NOUN

TRICKY

GUV-ur-munt

the group of people who run a country.

"The government decided to build a new hospital."
Why it's tricky Don't forget the hidden 'n' in '-ern-'.

harass VERB

TRICKY

HARR-uss

to keep bothering or annoying someone.

"It is unkind to harass people online."
Why it's tricky One 'r', double 's'.

identity NOUN

eye-DEN-tuh-tee

who a person is; what makes them themselves.

"The spy kept his real identity a secret."
individual NOUN

in-dih-VID-yoo-ul

a single person, separate from a group.

"Each individual was given their own worksheet."
interrupt VERB

TRICKY

in-tuh-RUPT

to stop someone while they are speaking or doing something.

"It is rude to interrupt when the teacher is talking."
Why it's tricky Double 'r'.

leisure NOUN

TRICKY

LEZH-ur

free time when you can relax and do what you enjoy.

"She reads books in her leisure time."
Why it's tricky 'ei' makes a short 'e' sound.

marvellous ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

MAR-vuh-luss

wonderful or excellent.

"We had a marvellous time at the seaside."
Why it's tricky British spelling has double 'l'.

muscle NOUN

TRICKY

MUSS-ul

a part of the body that helps you move.

"Running every day made his leg muscles stronger."

Why it's tricky Silent 'c' before the 'le'.

neighbour NOUN

TRICKY

NAY-bur

a person who lives next door or nearby.

"Our neighbour kindly fed the cat while we were away."

Why it's tricky 'eigh' makes an 'ay' sound; British '-our'.

occupy VERB

TRICKY

OK-yoo-pye

to fill a space or take up time.

"Puzzles are a good way to occupy a rainy afternoon."

Why it's tricky Double 'c', one 'p'.

opportunity NOUN

TRICKY

op-uh-TYOO-nuh-tee

a chance to do something good.

"The trip was a great opportunity to learn about history."

Why it's tricky Double 'p', one 't' in the middle.

persuade VERB

TRICKY

pur-SWAYD

to make someone agree by giving good reasons.

"I tried to persuade my mum to let me stay up late."

Why it's tricky 'sua' makes a 'sway' sound; silent 'e'.

prejudice NOUN

TRICKY

PREJ-uh-diss

an unfair opinion about someone before you know them.

"We should treat everyone fairly and without prejudice."

Why it's tricky Ends in '-ice' said like 'iss'.

profession NOUN

TRICKY

pruh-FESH-un

a job that needs special training or skill.

"Being a doctor is a respected profession."

Why it's tricky One 'f', double 's'; 'si' sounds like 'sh'.

pronunciation NOUN

TRICKY

pruh-nun-see-AY-shun

the way a word is said out loud.

"The teacher helped me with the pronunciation of the French word."

Why it's tricky It's 'nun', not 'noun'; ends in '-ciation'.

recognise VERB

TRICKY

REK-ug-nyze

to know someone or something because you have seen it before.

"I didn't recognise her with her new haircut."

Why it's tricky Silent 'g'; British '-ise' ending.

relevant ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

REL-uh-vunt

connected to the subject and important to it.

"Please keep your answer relevant to the question."

Why it's tricky '-evant', not '-avant'; one 'l'.

rhyme NOUN

TRICKY

ryme

a word that ends with the same sound as another.

"Cat' is a rhyme for 'hat'."

Why it's tricky Silent 'h' after the 'r'; 'y' sounds like 'i'.

sacrifice VERB

TRICKY

SAK-ruh-fyse

to give up something important for a good reason.

"She had to sacrifice her free time to train for the match."

Why it's tricky Ends in '-fice' said like 'fyse'.

shoulder NOUN

TRICKY

SHOHL-dur

the part of your body where your arm joins.

"He carried his little sister on his shoulders."

Why it's tricky Silent 'u': 'ou' makes an 'oh' sound.

sincerely ADVERB

TRICKY

sin-SEER-lee

in an honest and truthful way.

"We sign letters with 'Yours sincerely'."

Why it's tricky 'ce' makes a 'see' sound; keep the 'e' before '-ly'.

stomach NOUN

TRICKY

STUM-uk

the part of your body where food is digested.

"My stomach rumbled because I was so hungry."

Why it's tricky 'ch' makes a 'k' sound; 'o' sounds like 'u'.

suggest VERB

TRICKY

suh-JEST

to put forward an idea for others to think about.

"Can I suggest we meet at the park instead?"

Why it's tricky Double 'g'.

system NOUN

TRICKY

SISS-tum

a set of things or steps that work together.

"Our school has a new system for taking the register."

Why it's tricky 'y' makes a short 'i' sound.

thorough ADJECTIVE

TRICKY

THUH-ruh

done carefully and completely.

"She gave her bedroom a thorough tidy-up."

Why it's tricky 'ough' makes an 'uh' sound here.

variety NOUN

vuh-RYE-uh-tee

a number of different sorts of something.

"The shop sold a variety of sweets."

vehicle NOUN

TRICKY

VEE-ik-ul

a machine that carries people or things, like a car or bus.

"An ambulance is an emergency vehicle."

Why it's tricky Silent 'h' after the 've'.

Make these words stick

Reading a list once is a start. Pip turns it into a habit.



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