Year Six Spelling Patterns

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| **Lower Key Stage Two Pattern Revision** |
| **Phoneme focus** | **Pattern** | **National Curriculum**  | **Additional**  |
| ggpprr |  | aggressiveexaggerate suggest apparentappreciateopportunitycorrespondembarrassinterrupt |  |
| e-ee |  | achieveappreciateconveniencecorrespondfrequentlydeliciousessentialprecede |  |
| al le |  | individualphysicalavailablemusclevegetablevehicleprincipleprincipal*special**natural* |  |
| sh spelt c sc | English words spelled with "ci", "ti" or "si" before a vowel letter are often pronounced with a "sh" sound /ʃ/ rather than a "s" sound /s/. | ancientappreciatesufficientconscienceconsciousespecially | lusciousappreciate |
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| cce |  | prejudicenecessarysincereexcellentconveniencehindrancenuisanceexistencecemetery |  |
| tionationsionssion |  | *competition**explanation*dictionarypronunciationprofessionpossessioncomprehensionexpansion |  |
| nessless |  | aggressiveness awkwardnessdesperatenessdeterminedness *thoughtless* | cluelesscolourlessmotionless  |
| fulment |  | harassment achievementattachmentenvironmentthoughtfulcolourfulbeautifulspiteful  |  |
| inil |  | incomplete*illegal**illegible**illogical**illiterate* | invisibleindirectinconclusive  |
| antiauto |  |  | antifreezeantigravityantidoteantibacterialautocraticautobiographyautoimmune |
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| quegue | Words ending with the /g/ sound spelt – gue and the /k/ sound spelt –que (French in origin) | *unique* | dialogueepilogueanalogueintriguecritiqueboutiquecheque |
| ss sesc |  | embarrassharassnecessarydescentascent musclebruisewhose |  |
| orau |  | accordingcategoryfortyopportunityrestaurantcaught | audiencehaunted |

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| tiouscious | Not many common words end like this. If the root word ends in –ce, the /ʃ/ sound is usually spelt as c – e.g. vice – vicious, grace – gracious, space – spacious, malice – malicious. Exception: anxious. | malicious suspicious fictitious cautiousnutritiousambitious | ferociousgracious |
| cialtial | –cial is common after a vowel letter and –tial after a consonant letter, but there are some exceptions. Exceptions: initial, financial, commercial, provincial (the spelling of the last three is clearly related to finance, commerce and province). | officialartificialpartialconfidentialessential | beneficialsocialresidential |
| antent | Use –ant if there is a related word with a /æ/ or /eɪ/ sound in the right position; –ation endings are often a clue.Use –ent after soft c (/s/ sound), soft g and qu, or if there is a related word with a clear /ɛ/ sound in the right position. There are many words, however, where the above guidance does not help.  | *relevant* *restaurant**assistant expectant sufficient**ancient* *apparent**excellent*observant hesitant tolerantinnocent frequentconfident obedientindependent |  |
| **Phoneme focus** | **Pattern** | **National Curriculum** | **Additional** |
| anceence | Use –ance if there is a related word with a /æ/ or /eɪ/ sound in the right position; –ation endings are often a clue.Use –ence after soft c (/s/ sound), soft g and qu, or if there is a related word with a clear /ɛ/ sound in the right position. There are many words, however, where the above guidance does not help. | hindrancenuisancerelevanceobservanceconscienceconvenienceexistenceobediencetolerance substanceassistanceinnocenceconfidenceindependence  | experience |
| ancyency | Use ancy if there is a related word with a /æ/ or /eɪ/ sound in the right position; –ation endings are often a clue.Use ency after soft c (/s/ sound), soft g/ qu, or if there is a related word with a clear /ɛ/ sound in the right position. There are many words where this guidance does not help. | hesitancy | expectancyredundancyreluctancyefficientlyconsistencyemergencyabsorbency |
| ibleable | able is more common than ible. As with ant/ance/ancy, able is used if there is a related word ending in ation. If able is added to a word ending in ce/ ge, the e must be kept as those letters would have their ‘hard’ sounds (as in cap and gap) before the a of the able. able is usually but not always used if a complete root word can be heard, even if there is no related word ending in ation. Y changes to i in accordance with the rule. ible is common if a complete root word can’t be heard before it but it also sometimes occurs when a complete word can be heard (e.g. sensible) | noticeable recognisablerecommendable adorable applicableconsiderable comfortable understandable reliableincredible forcible legiblefeasibleedibleresponsiblereversibleincredible |  |
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| iblyably | able is more common than ible. As with ant/ance/ancy, able is used if there is a related word ending in ation. If able is added to a word ending in ce/ ge, the e must be kept as those letters would have their ‘hard’ sounds (as in cap and gap) before the a of the able. able is usually but not always used if a complete root word can be heard, even if there is no related word ending in ation. Y changes to i in accordance with the rule. ible is common if a complete root word can’t be heard before it but it also sometimes occurs when a complete word can be heard (e.g. sensible) | dependablycomfortablyunderstandablysuitablymiserablyremarkablyreasonablyrespectably visibly sensiblylegiblyresponsiblyimpossiblyillegiblyincredibly |  |
| eding(to fer) | The r is doubled if the –fer is still stressed when the ending is added. The r is not doubled if the –fer is no longer stressed. | transferring transferred  | inferringbufferingofferinginferred buffered offered |
| alence(to fer) | The r is doubled if the –fer is still stressed when the ending is added. The r is not doubled if the –fer is no longer stressed. | referral preference transference reference  | deferraltransferralconferral difference |
| hyphen | Hyphens can be used to join a prefix to a root word, especially if the prefix ends in a vowel letter and the root word also begins with one. | co-operateco-ordinate | co-pilotre-examinere-evaluatere-energisepre-existingpre-election |
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| ei | The ‘i before e except after c’ rule applies to words where the sound spelt by ei is /i:/. Exceptions: protein, caffeine, seize (and either and neither if pronounced with an initial /i:/ sound). | deceive conceive receive perceive ceilingsoldier varietyancientsufficient |  |
| ough | ough is one of the trickiest spellings in English – it can be used to spell a number of different sounds. | oughtboughtthoughtbroughtfought rough tough enough cough thoughalthough dough thoroughborough through plough  |  |
| Silent letters | Some letters which are no longer sounded used to be sounded hundreds of years ago: e.g. in knight, there was a /k/ sound before the /n/, and the gh used to represent the sound that ‘ch’ now represents in the Scottish word loch | solemn  | whosewristswordcolumnhymnbuildguessedguest |
| Homophones | In the pairs of words opposite, nouns end –ce and verbs end –se. Advice and advise provide a useful clue as the word advise (verb) is pronounced with a /z/ sound – which could not be spelt c. | aisleislealoudallowedascentassentcerealserialcomplementcomplimentaffecteffectprincipleprincipalprofitprophetaltaralterbridalbridlefatherfartherleadledpassedpaststationarystationerystealsteelwho’swhosedraftdraughtprecedeproceeddescentdissentwarywearydesertdessert |  |

