

This list contains many of the most common English words which people find tricky to spell, together with short notes to help you remember the right spelling.

All the words below follow the standard British English spelling.

1. abseil	ends with -seil (not -sail)
2. accommodate, accommodation, etc.	two cs, two ms (often misspelled with only one m)
3. accumulate, accumulation, etc.	two cs, one m
4. achieve	i before e
5. address	two ds
6. aggressive, aggression, etc.	two g's, two s's
7. all right	two words (not alright)
8. a lot	two words (not alot)
9. apparent	ends with -ent (not -ant)
10. aqueduct	e after the u (not aqua-)
11. archaeology	-ae- after the h
12. Arctic	remember the c after the r
13. argument	no e after the u
14. artefact	arte- (arti- is the US spelling)
15. attach	ends with -ach (no t)
16. beautiful, beauty, etc.	remember the u (not beat-)
17. belief, believe	i before e
18. besiege	i before e
19. biased	only one s
20. bigoted	only one t
21. blatant	ends with -ant (not -ent)
22. brief	i before e
23. broccoli	two cs, one l
24. ceiling	e before i
25. cemetery	3 vowels, all es
26. civilian	only one l
27. coconut	-co- in the middle (no a)
28. commemorate	two ms, then single m

29. commitment	two ms, one t in the middle
30. committee	two ms, two ts
31. comparative	-rative (not -ritive)
32. compatible	-tible (not -table)
33. competent	ends with -ent (not -ant)
34. conceive	e before i
35. contemporary	ends with -porary (not -pory)
36. correspondence	ends with -ence (not -ance)
37. cursor	ends with -or (not -er)
38. deceive	e before i
39. definite	-ite (not -ate)
40. despair	begins with des- (not dis-)
41. desperate	-per- in the middle (not -par-)
42. detach	ends with -ach (no t)
43. diarrhoea	two rs, ends with -hoea
44. disappear	one s, two ps
45. disappoint	one s, two ps
46. disastrous	ends with -trous (not -terous)
47. discipline	remember the c after the s
48. dissect	two s's
49. eighth	two hs, ends with -hth
50. embarrass, embarrassment, etc.	two rs, two s's
51. environment	remember the n before the m
52. estuary	-tuary (not -taury)
53. exaggerate, exaggeration	two gs, one r
54. except	remember the c after the x
55. existence	ends with -ence (not -ance)
56. extraordinary	begins with extraor- (not extror-)
57. extrovert	begins with extro- (not extra-)
58. familiar	only one l
59. February	two rs (-ruary not -uary)
60. fierce	i before e

61. fluorescent	fluor- (not flour-)
62. foreign	e before i
63. forty	begins with for- (no u)
64. friend	i before e
65. fulfil, fulfilment	two single ls
66. government	remember the n before the m
67. grammar	ends with -ar (not -er)
68. grateful	begins with grate- (not great-)
69. grief, grieve	i before e
70. guarantee	-ua- (not -au-)
71. handkerchief	remember the d
72. harass, harassment, etc.	one r, two s's
73. hers	no apostrophe
74. hierarchy	i before e, ends with -archy
75. hindrance	ends with -drance (not -derance)
76. homogeneous	the ending is -eous, with an e
77. honorary	-nor- in the middle (no u)
78. humorous, humorist	-mor- in the middle (no u)
79. imaginary	ends with -ary (not -ery)
80. immediately	ends with -ately (not -atly)
81. independent	ends with -ent (not -ant)
82. inoculate	one n, one c
83. insistent	ends with -ent (not -ant)
84. instalment	one l
85. interrupt, interruption	two rs
86. irrelevant	two rs, ends with -ant
87. judgement	use judgement in general contexts, judgment in legal use
88. knowledge	remember the d
89. language	-guage (not -gauge)
90. library	two rs (-rary)
91. lightning	lightn- (no e)

92. maintenance	-ten- (not -tain-), ends with -ance
93. manoeuvre	-oeu- in the middle, ends with -vre
94. medicine	begins with medi- (not mede-)
95. millennium	two ls, two ns
96. millionaire	two ls, one n
97. mischievous	i before e, ends with -vous (not -vious)
98. misspell	two s's
99. moreover	remember the middle e
100. necessary, necessity, etc.	one c, two s's
101. negotiate	ends with -tiate (not -ciate)
102. occasion	two cs, one s
103. occur	two cs, one r
104. occurrence	two cs, two rs
105. omission, omit	one m
106. opportunity	two ps
107. ours	no apostrophe
108. parallel	two ls in the middle, ends with one l
109. parliament	-lia- in the middle
110. perceive	e before i
111. permanent	ends with -ent (not -ant)
112. persistent	ends with -ent (not -ant)
113. persuasion	s not 't' in -sion
114. possess, possession, etc.	two s's in the middle and two at the end
115. privilege	ends with -lege (not -ledge)
116. propaganda	begins with propa- (not propo-)
117. protein	e before i
118. questionnaire	two ns, one r
119. receive	e before i
120. recommend, recommendation, etc.	one c, two ms
121. refrigerator	no d
122. relevant	ends with -ant (not -ent)

123.	relief, relieve	i before e
124.	religious	ends with -gious (not -gous)
125.	rhythm	begins with rhy-, ends with -thm
126.	separate	-par- in the middle (not -per-)
127.	siege	i before e
128.	sieve	i before e
129.	success, successful, etc.	two cs, two s's
130.	surprise	begins with sur- (not sup-)
131.	temperature	-pera- in the middle
132.	theirs	no apostrophe
133.	thief	i before e
134.	threshold	one h in the middle
135.	tomato	no e at the end of the singular (but add -es to make the plural)
136.	tomorrow	one m, two rs
137.	truly	no e
138.	underrate	two rs in the middle
139.	until	just one l at the end
140.	usage	just one e, at the end
141.	vaccinate	two cs
142.	vegetable	vege- (not vega-)
143.	veterinary	-er- in the middle; -ary at the end
144.	vulnerable	remember the l before the n
145.	Wednesday	remember the d before the n
146.	weird	e before i
147.	wield	i before e
148.	wilful	two single ls
149.	yield	i before e
150.	yours	no apostrophe