

Year 6 SATs Spelling Quiz 4

1. The birthday cake had _____ candles.
2. The food at the restaurant was _____.
3. Flour is an _____ ingredient when making bread.
4. The man spoke Spanish with great _____.
5. The wicked witch was not very _____.

Spelling Quiz 4 Answers

Spelling Objective	In a sentence	Word
words with the /eɪ/ sound spelt 'ei', 'eigh', or 'ey'	The birthday cake had eight candles	eight
endings which sound like /ʃəs/ spelt -cious or -tious	The food at the restaurant was delicious.	delicious
endings which sound like /ʃəl/	Flour is an essential ingredient when making bread.	essential
words ending in -ant, -ance, -ancy, -ent, -ence, -ency	The man spoke Spanish with great fluency.	fluency
words ending in -able and -ible	The wicked witch was not very likeable.	likeable

Words with the /eɪ/ sound spelt 'ei', 'eigh', or 'ey'

The /eɪ/ sound can be made several ways in English: 'ay' as in day, 'a_e' as in mane, 'ai' as in rain, 'ei' as in feint, 'eigh' as in eight and 'ey' as in they. Children begin to learn these sounds in KS1 when learning phonics. Children often get confused with which /eɪ/ spelling to use so this needs to be practised a lot. Words that could appear in the spelling test are:

vein, abseil, beige, reign, eight, sleigh, freight, they, obey

Endings which sound like /ʃəs/ spelt -cious or -tious

These words can be tricky! A tip to remember is if the root word ends in ce you use -cious to make this sound, such as:

space + ious = spacious

Many have to be learnt individually but the majority of words ending in /ʃəs/ are spelt -cious. Words using these spelling patterns include:

ambitious, cautious, infectious, superstitious, nutritious, spacious,
gracious, malicious, unconscious, tenacious

Endings which sound like /ʃəʌ/ spelt -cial or -tial

If you're wondering why we have two spellings for this sound, it's because one is French and the other is from Latin. As a rule of thumb, use -cial after the vowels 'o', 'e' and 'i' such as social, special and beneficial. Use -tial after a consonant, especially after 'n', such as substantial, essential, partial.

social, essential, confidential, special, partial potential, official

Words ending in -ant, -ance, -ancy, -ent, -ence, -ency

Here are some rules to help your child choose between -ance / -ence and -ancy / -ency. However, as always in English, there are exceptions to the rules which have to be learnt separately.

If the root word ends in -ant, -ure, -ear or -y use -ance. For example:

significant = significance, assure = assurance, clear = clearance, apply = appliance.

Use -ence when the root word ends in -ere and -ent. For example:

adhere = adherence and absent = absence

-ancy is used when the root word ends in -ant and -ency is used when the root word ends in -ent. For example:

accountant = accountancy or fluent = fluency

Words ending in -able and -ible and words ending in -ably and -ibly

-ible and -able are both common spelling patterns for adjectives and usually sound the same. They mean 'able to' and 'fit for'; however, knowing which one to use can be tricky. For these words it's a matter of practice and checking using a dictionary. Usually, a good speller can see which one 'looks right'. These words include:

enjoyable, probably, considerable, considerably, tolerable, tolerably, sensible, sensibly, horrible, horribly