

3 Key Stage 3 spelling lists

General spelling list

The following list of spellings was compiled by a number of secondary schools who all identified the following words as common errors among this age group.

The list is not intended for blanket teaching, because most pupils will know how to spell most of the words, but it is recommended that early in Year 7, pupils should be helped to learn those spellings about which they still are uncertain.

accommodation	conclusion	explanation
actually	conscience	February
alcohol	conscious	fierce
although	consequence	forty
analyse/analysis	continuous	fulfil
argument	creation	furthermore
assessment	daughter	guard
atmosphere	decide/decision	happened
audible	definite	health
audience	design	height
autumn	development	imaginary
beautiful	diamond	improvise
beginning	diary	industrial
believe	disappear	interesting
beneath	disappoint	interrupt
buried	embarrass	issue
business	energy	jealous
caught	engagement	knowledge
chocolate	enquire	listening
climb	environment	lonely

column	evaluation	lovely
concentration	evidence	marriage
material	potential	sincerely
meanwhile	preparation	skilful
miscellaneous	prioritise	soldier
mischief	process	stomach
modern	proportion	straight
moreover	proposition	strategy
murmur	questionnaire	strength
necessary	queue	success
nervous	reaction	surely
original	receive	surprise
outrageous	reference	survey
parallel	relief	technique
participation	remember	technology
pattern	research	texture
peaceful	resources	tomorrow
people	safety	unfortunately
performance	Saturday	Wednesday
permanent	secondary	weight
persuade/persuasion	separate	weird
physical	sequence	women
possession	shoulder	

Common homophones and confusions:

advise/advice choose/chose quiet/quite

a lot of	cloth/clothe	sites/sights
affect/effect	conscience/conscious	source/sauce
allowed/aloud	course/coarse	thank you
bought/brought	our/are	threw/through
braking/breaking	practise/practice	to/too/two

Subject spelling lists:

Art

abstract	easel	kiln
acrylic	exhibition	landscape
charcoal	foreground	palette
collage	frieze	pastel
collection	gallery	perspective
colour	highlight	portrait
crosshatch	illusion	sketch
dimension	impasto	spectrum
display		

D and T

aesthetic	hygiene	presentation
brief	ingredient	production
carbohydrate	innovation	protein
component	knife/knives	recipe
design	linen	sew
diet	machine	specification
disassemble	manufacture	technology
evaluation	mineral	tension

fabric	natural	textile
fibre	nutrition	vitamin
flour	polyester	
flowchart	portfolio	

English

advertise/advertisement	figurative	preposition
alliteration	genre	resolution
apostrophe	grammar	rhyme
atmosphere	imagery	scene
chorus	metaphor	simile
clause	myth	soliloquy
cliché	narrative/narrator	subordinate
comma	onomatopoeia	suffix
comparison	pamphlet	synonym
conjunction	paragraph	tabloid
consonant	personification	vocabulary
dialogue	playwright	vowel
exclamation	plural	
expression	prefix	

Geography

abroad	function	poverty
amenity	globe	provision
atlas	habitat	region/regional
authority	infrastructure	rural
climate	international	settlement
contour	landscape	situation

country	latitude	tourist/tourism
county	location	transport/transportation
desert	longitude	urban
employment	nation/national	wealth
erosion	physical	weather
estuary	pollution	

History

agriculture/agricultural	defence	politics/political
bias	disease	priest
castle	document	propaganda
cathedral	dynasty	Protestant
Catholic	economy/economic(al)	rebel/rebellion
chronology/chronological	emigration	reign
citizen	government	religious
civilisation	immigrant	republic
colony/colonisation	imperial/imperialism	revolt/revolution
conflict	independence	siege
constitution/constitutional	invasion	source
contradict/contradiction	motive	trade
current	parliament	traitor

ICT

binary	hardware	network
byte	icon	output
cable	input	password

cartridge	interactive	preview
CD-ROM	interface	processor
computer	Internet	program
connect/connection	justify	scanner
cursor	keyboard	sensor
data/database	megabyte	server
delete	memory	software
disk	modem	spreadsheet
document	module	virus
electronic	monitor	
graphic	multimedia	
Library		
alphabet/alphabetical	encyclopaedia	novel
anthology	extract	photocopy
article	fantasy	publisher
author	genre	relevant/relevance
catalogue	glossary	romance
classification	index	section
content	irrelevant/irrelevance	series
copyright	librarian	system
dictionary	magazine	thesaurus
editor	non-fiction	
Mathematics		
addition	estimate	positive
adjacent	equation	quadrilateral
alternate	fraction	questionnaire

angle	graph	radius
amount	guess	ratio
approximately	horizontal	recurring
average	isosceles	reflect/reflection
axis/axes	kilogram	regular/irregular
calculate	kilometre	rhombus
centimetre	litre	rotate/rotation
circumference	measure	square
corresponding	metre	subtraction
co-ordinate	minus	symmetry/symmetrical
decimal	multiply/multiplication	triangle/triangular
degree	parallel/parallelogram	tonne
denominator	negative	vertex/vertices
diameter	numerator	vertical
digit	percentage	volume
divide/division	perimeter	weight
equilateral	perpendicular	

Music

choir	minim	score
chord	minor	semibreve
chromatic	musician	synchronise
composition/conductor	octave	syncopation
crotchet	orchestra/orchestral	tempo
dynamics	ostinato	ternary
harmony	percussion	timbre
instrument/instrumental	pitch	triad
interval	quaver	vocal

lyric
major

rhythm
scale

PE

active/activity	injury	qualify
agile/agility	league	relay
athletic/athlete	medicine	squad
bicep	mobile/mobility	tactic
exercise	muscle	tournament
field	personal	triceps
gym/gymnastic	pitch	
hamstring	quadriceps	

PSHE

able/ability	effort	reality
achieve/achievement	emotion/emotional	relationship
addict/addiction	encourage/encouragement	represent/representative
approve/approval	gender	reward
communication	generous/generosity	sanction
control	involve/involvement	sexism/sexist
dependant/dependency	prefer/preference	stereotype
discipline	pressure	
discussion	racism/racist	

RE

baptism	Hindu/Hinduism	prophet
Bible/biblical	hymn	religious/religion
Buddhist/Buddhism	immoral/immorality	shrine

burial	Islam	sign
celebrate/celebration	Israel	Sikh/Sikhism
ceremony	Judaism/Jewish	special
Christian	marriage	spirit/spiritual
commandment	miracle	symbol
commitment	moral/morality	synagogue
creation	Muslim	temple
disciple	parable	wedding
faith	pilgrim/pilgrimage	worship
festival	pray/prayer	
funeral	prejudice	
Science		
absorb	exchange	organism
acid	freeze	oxygen
alkaline	frequency	particles
amphibian	friction	predator
apparatus	function	pressure
chemical	growth	reproduce
circulate/circulation	hazard	respire/respiration
combustion	insect	solution
condensation	laboratory	temperature
cycle	liquid	thermometer
digest/digestion	mammal	vertebrate
element	method	vessel
evaporation	nutrient	