

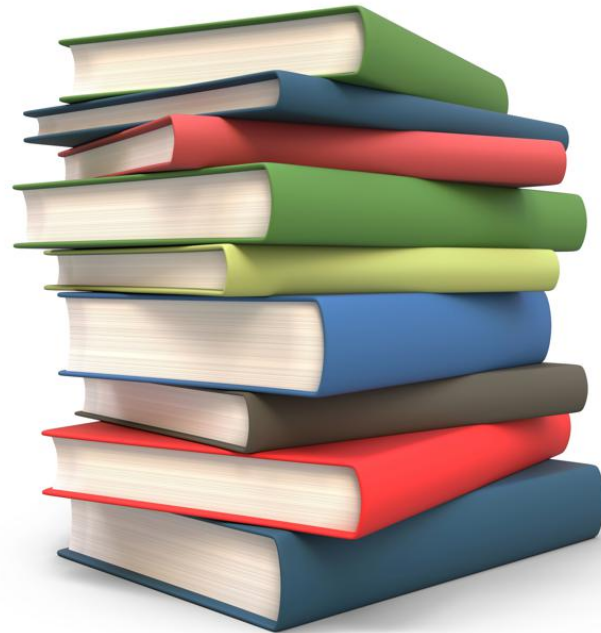
# SPELLING WORKSHOP

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Using the Reading Reflex programme to support the daily spelling activity

# An overview of our language

The English language is one of the world's most popular languages, spoken by over 2 billion people across the planet. However, there are many parts of our language that don't appear to make much sense when it comes to spelling – such as the word colour. It would be far easier if this was spelt cula wouldn't it. These odd spellings happen because our country's language has been influenced by many other countries over the last millennium and more. Each time another nation, such as the Romans, invaded Britain or came to live and trade here, they brought some of their own language and mixed it in with ours- all very confusing! However spelling workshop is here to help us deal with some of these spelling problems.



# Vowels, consonants and syllables

In the English language, there are 5 vowels (a,e,i,o and u) and 21 consonants ( all the other letters in the alphabet). However, many more vowel sounds are made by combining 2 or more vowels to make a different sound. The letter 'y' is often considered to be a vowel because it can make the sound 'ie' as in sky, 'ee' as in happy and 'i' as in gym. Remember that if 'y' is used at the beginning of a word it is always a consonant as in yellow or yoghurt. Vowels are letters that we sound out with our mouth open – have a go now and look around at other children's mouth shapes. As we say them, we allow the air to escape from our mouth. Think of vowels as the glue that holds words together.

Consonants are made by blocking the air coming out of our mouth, by using our lips, tongue and teeth more – say b, t and r now. Can you feel the difference?

A syllable is a unit of sound that forms a whole word or part of a word. It is like the beat of a word if you were to clap it out- five has 1 syllable but seven has 2 syllables. Can you think of a three syllable word? How about a four and five syllable word? Clap these out now.

It is important to remember that every syllable will have at least one vowel in it, or it will contain the letter 'y'. Some syllables have several vowels in them...

try – one syllable and 'y'

be-lieve – two syllables, the second with more than one vowel

neigh-bour – two syllables both with more than one vowel

Well done – next time we will look at long and short vowel sounds.

# Long vowels and short vowels

It will be helpful if you understand what long and short vowel sounds are so here goes...

Long vowels sound like the name of the letter rather than the sound that it makes, so in 'table' the letter 'a' is making a long sound just like its letter name. Some other examples are... she, mind, go and stupid. It is important to remember that single letter vowels can make both their long and short sounds. Can you say these long vowel sounds now?

Long vowels are also made when two or more vowels are put next to each other...lean, tried, again and through.

Another way of making a long vowel sound is to place an 'e' at the end of some words to form a split digraph...cake, scene, ride, spoke and cute. The first vowel and second vowel work together to form a long sound even though they are not next to each other. Can you think of some other words that use a split digraph to form a long vowel sound?

Now try changing these short vowel sounds into long vowel sounds by using a split digraph...

mat... them... rid...not... hug...

Short vowel sounds are much easier to spot- they **never** make the sound of their letter name, they are usually followed by a consonant and cannot appear at the end of a syllable...cat, pest, mittens, pollen and under. However, we must remember that combinations of more than one vowel can make short vowel sounds...bread, touch. Can you say these short sounds now?

Well done – now we can move on to our spelling workshops!

# The 'oe' Sound



Today we are learning about the 'oe' sound, as in float and throwing. There are six different codes that make this sound-can you think of them? Let's see if you are right...

**o**

go  
only

**oe**

toe  
tomatoes

**o-e**

tone  
spoke

**ow**

throw  
owner

**ough**

dough  
although

**oa**

boat  
roasted

Can you think of a silly sentence using some of the words you have found today? I only eat tomatoes when I have spoken to their owner!



# The 'ow' Sound



Today we are learning about the 'ow' sound, as in clown and frown. There are only 3 codes that make this sound and 1 is quite unusual, can you think of them? Let's see if you are right...

**ow**

brown  
frowning

**ou**

noun  
proudest

**ough**  
drought  
bough

This is an  
unusual code for  
this sound as  
there are only a  
few words spelt  
this way.



Can you find some examples with more than two syllables? What is your funny sentence...The frowning brown owl was too proud.

# Sound Sorting

We use sound sorting when one code makes more than one sound.  
Today's code is 'ow' as in clown and show...let's have a look.

**ow**

clown

frown

**ow**

show

blowing

Can you think of some more examples of this code making these two sounds...remember your words will have the same spelling pattern but sound different. Read down each column to make sure you have sorted your words correctly.



# The 'er' sound



Today we are learning about the 'er' sound, as in quicker and quarter. There are 8 codes which make this sound. Can you think of them? Let's see if you are right...

**er**

certain  
gingerbread

**re**

centre  
metre

**ur**

curling  
turbo

**ir**

girls  
circle

**or**

workshop  
world

**ear**

learning  
heard

**ar**

calendar  
regular

**our**

colour  
favourite

When you have added some more words to the word bank write your own silly sentence using as many of these codes as possible...At the gingerbread workshop the polar bear learnt how to curl the girl's hair.





# The 'r' sound



Today we are learning about the 'r' sound, as in rabbit and write. There are 3 codes which make this sound. Can you think of them? Let's see if you are right...

**r**

risk  
rotten

**re**

there  
are

**wr**

writing  
wreck

Did you notice the silent 'w'? Can you think of any other silent letters? We will meet them later on. What is your silly sentence today?

Rotten writing wrecks their rubbers.



# The 'i-e' sound



Today's sound is 'i-e' as in fright and stripe. There are 6 codes to discover and 1 is quite unusual...how many can you find?

**i**

wild  
mildly

**i-e**

stripe  
kites

**y**

sky  
flying

**igh**

highest  
mighty

**ie**

cries  
ties

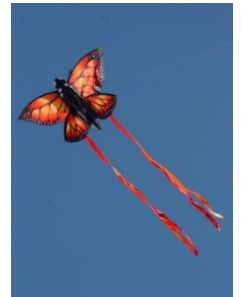
**eigh**

height

This is unusual  
as 'eigh'  
generally says  
'ay' as in weigh

Did you notice the split vowel pattern – this happens with all vowels...cake, these, pipe, hope, cube. Remember that these vowels can be pushed together to make the same sound, except 'ae', where they are reversed...break, keen, cried, foe and true.

What is today's silly sentence?



# Sound Sorting

This is our second sound sorting exercise. Do you remember that one code can make more than one sound? Today's code is 'ie' as in pie and thief.

**ie**  
pie  
spied

**ie**  
thief  
chief

Can you think of some more examples of this code making these two sounds...remember your words will have the same spelling pattern but sound different. Read down each column to make sure that you have sorted your words correctly.

What's your silly sentence?

Who stole all the pies? The pie thief did!



# The 'ee' sound



Today we are learning about the 'ee' sound, as in messy and monkey. There are 8 codes which all make this sound. Can you think of them? Let's have a look...

**e**

she

he

**ee**

meeting

guarantee

**e-e**

eve

theme

**ie**

chief

thief

**i**

happiest

silliest

**y**

happy

silly

**ea**

treat

please

**ey**

monkey

journey

**ei**

receive

This is unusual as it mostly only happens after a 'c' – remember i before e except after c.

When you have added some more words to the word bank write your own silly sentence using as many of these codes as possible. She guaranteed that the theme of the evening was Easter.



# The 'e' sound



Today we are looking at the 'e' sound as in plenty and bread. There are 3 common ways to spell this but one unusual way too...can you think of the codes?

**e**

accident  
confident

**ea**

pleasant  
heavy

**ai**

said  
captain

**ie**

friendly

This is unusual  
as 'ie' generally  
says pie or thief

When you have added some more words to the word bank write your own silly sentence using all four of these codes...My friend, Fred, said don't eat bread in bed.





# The 'a-e' sound

Today's sound is 'a-e' as in take and maybe. There are 9 different codes! However, there are 3 very unusual codes so concentrate on finding the 6 common ones.

**a-e**

bake  
celebrate

**a**

table  
paper

**ay**

playing  
hay

**ai**

raining  
remain

**eigh**

eight  
freight

**ey**

they  
survey

**ei**

vein  
abseil

**aigh**

straight  
This is a very  
unusual way of  
spelling this  
sound.

**ea**

break  
steak



Well done! This is a common sound in our language, but it has so many spelling patterns...time for a silly sentence. Can you include all 6 of the common codes? They celebrate remaining birthdays with eight cakes, abseiling breaks and straight tables.

# Sound Sorting

Now we have looked at the sounds 'ee', 'a-e' and 'e' we need to do some sound sorting. The code 'ea' appears in each of these word banks because it makes 3 different sounds. Try to remember this silly sentence to help you...Eat great bread!

**ea**  
eat  
feat

**ea**  
great  
steak

**ea**  
bread  
dread

Did you manage to find any 3 and 4 syllable words? Remember to read down each column to check that each word has been sorted correctly.

What is your silly sentence today?

It's a great feat to eat dreadful bread.



# The 'oo' sound



Today we will look at the 'oo' sound, as in spoon and rude. There are 10 codes for this sound but 1 is very unusual. Can you think of some of the common ways to spell this sound? Let's see if you're right...

**oo**

boot  
soonest

**o**

today  
doing

**oe**

shoes  
canoe

**ew**

crew  
chewing

**u**

super  
rubies

**u-e**

flute  
chute

**ui**

bruise  
suitable

**ou**

grouped  
wounded

**ue**

blue  
glue

**ough**

**Through**

This is very  
unusual and  
'ough' makes 4  
other sounds too!

Can you create a sentence with a word from each of your codes...that deserves a clap!





# The 'oo' sound



Today's sound is 'u' as in pushing and books. There are only 3 codes...can you think of them? Let's see if you are right...

**u**

pushing  
bushes

**oo**

booked  
looking

**oul**

could  
would

Silly sentence time...Whilst pushing through the bushes, I looked for my book that I shouldn't have cooked.  
Can you think of something even sillier?



# Sound Sorting

Now we have looked at the sounds 'u' as in push and 'oo' as in food, we need to do some sound sorting. Today's code appears in each of these word banks because it makes 2 different sounds. How many examples can you think of?

**oo**

good  
hooked

**oo**

food  
moody

Read down each column to make sure you have sorted your words correctly, if you haven't you should be able to hear where you went wrong. Silly sentence time... Good, cooked food prevents a bad mood.



# The 'u' sound



Today we will look at the 'u' sound, as in country and bumpy. There are 4 codes for this sound. Can you think of them? Let's see if you're right...

**u**

underneath  
trust

**o-e**

sometimes  
dove

**ou**

country  
trouble

**o**

wonderful  
Monday

Can you find some more 3 and 4 syllable words with these codes in them? What's your silly sentence today? On Monday the troublesome truck got stuck in the countryside. Can you spot all the 'u' codes?



# Sound Sorting

Now we have learnt about the sounds 'u', 'ow' and 'oo' we need to do some more sound sorting as there is one code that appears in each of these sounds...can you think of it?

**ou**  
rough  
toughest

**ou**  
loud  
rounded

**ou**  
soup  
grouped

How many words could you add?  
Remember to read down each column to make sure you have sorted them correctly. Can you think of a silly phrase or sentence to remember these three sounds made by one code?  
Rough, loud group...tough, round soup...



# The 'aw' sound



Today we are learning about the 'aw' sound, as in awesome and forty. There are 9 codes which all make this sound, plus 2 very unusual ones. How many can you think of ? Let's see if you are right...

**aw**  
jaw  
unlawful

**ough**  
bought  
thoughtful

**augh**  
daughter  
caught

**our**  
pouring  
four

**or**  
for  
forty

**ore**  
more  
pore

**oor**  
poor  
floor

**al**  
chalk  
talkative

**a/ar**  
water/quarter  
These are very  
unusual codes for  
this sound.

**au**  
autumn  
fault

Goodness...what a lot of codes! Can you  
create a silly sentence using most of them?  
Good Luck!



# The 'o' sound



Today's sound is 'o' as in hottest and lost. There are only 2 codes ...can you find them both? Let's have a look...

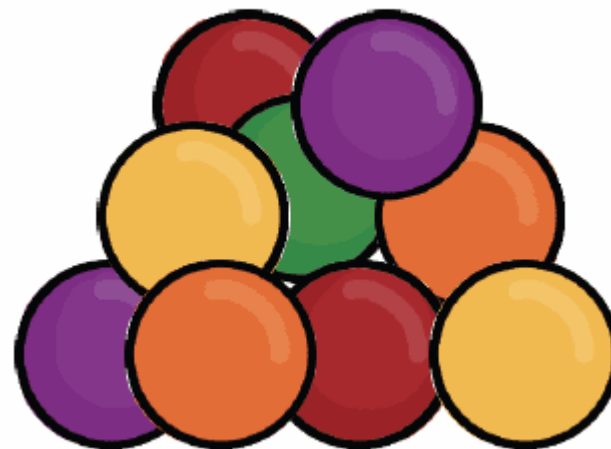
**o**

complete  
often

**a**

squash  
wander

How many words did you find with 3 syllables? Did you find any with 4 or even 5 syllables? Tolerate, tolerable and intolerable...can you see how you can extend words by adding prefixes and suffixes. Use these root words to get started...turn, play and appeal. Can you write a prefix or suffix in each of the circles?



# The 'ar' sound



Today's sound is 'ar' as in smart and plaster. There are 3 codes that make this sound...can you find them?

**ar**  
smartest  
marbles

**a**  
nasty  
planting

**al**  
calm  
calf

Laugh has the 'ar' sound in it but is spelt with the code 'au' – this is very unusual.

What was the longest word that you found? Can you improve on this? What is your longest silly sentence?

Father held smart, glass marbles in the palm of his rather large hand at the carnival last March...pew!! Can you spot all the codes?



# The 'oy' sound



Today's sound is 'oy' as in employed and loyal. There are just 2 codes to find today...did you find them?

**oy**  
oyster  
joyful

**oi**  
spoilt  
coiled

Which word has the most syllables? Can you find the vowel sound in each syllable?

Silly sentence time...

Joyful oysters avoid noisy boys.





# The 'i' sound



Today we are going to look at the 'i' sound as in mittens and inside. There are only 2 codes to find...can you think of them? Let's have a look...

**i**  
kittens  
inside

**y**  
mystery  
system



A prefix is added to the beginning of a word to make a new word.

How many 3 syllable words did you find? Can you make any of your words longer by adding or changing a prefix or suffix...like mystery...mysterious. This sometimes changes the word from a noun into an adjective...hope...hopefully.



A suffix is added to the end of a word to make a new word.

# The 'u-e' sound



Today's sound is 'u-e' as in cube and stupid. Be careful that you don't confuse this with the 'oo' sound as in balloon because each of today's codes can also be found within the 'oo' sound word bank! There are 4 codes to find. Let's have a look...

**u-e**

cute  
tuneful

**u**

pupil  
cucumber

**ue**

fuel  
rescue

**ew**

fewer  
fewest

Can you now find one word with each of these codes that says 'oo' rather than 'u-e'...for example rude, super, glue and crew? Can you make a silly sentence with a mixture of the two sounds?  
The rescue crew glued blue cucumbers to the new pupils.



# Sound Sorting

As we have now looked at both the 'oo' and 'u-e' sounds we will have a closer look at how some of these codes overlap. We explored this a little in the last slide so can you remember the four codes that appear in both sounds? Let's see if you are right...

**ew**

few crew

**u-e**

cute flute

**u**

truthful ruby

**ue**

rescue blue

Remember to read down each column to check that you have sorted your words correctly. What will your silly sentence be today?

A few of the rescue crew stupidly flew into the blue stew whilst playing their new flute.



# Consonant Sounds

Now we have completed all the vowel sounds we are moving onto the consonant sounds. Can you remember what consonants are? Have a look back at slide 2 if you are unsure.

Yes, that's right, consonants are all the letters in the alphabet that aren't vowels. There are 21 of them. We will only be looking at the consonants which have more than one way of spelling their sound, other than just doubling the letter itself, for example 'b' can only be spelt with the single letter 'b' or doubled 'bb', so we won't examine this sound. Also we must remember that there are 7 consonants which are very rarely or never doubled. Can you think of some of them?

How many did you find?  
h...j...q...v...w...x...and y.



# The first 3 sounds...

So, already we have learnt that there are many ways of spelling vowel sounds and consonants are similar. There are 3 consonant codes which you will be familiar with. They are used very commonly and make 3 new sounds...let's take a look at them.

**sh**

shower  
shoulder

**ch**

cherish  
cheerful

**th**

thistle  
this

But... 'ch' also says  
'k' as in chrome and 'sh'  
as in machine so watch  
out for these tricky  
spellings.



Did you notice  
the slightly  
different sounds  
that 'th' makes in  
these two  
words?

Now add some of your own ideas to the word bank.



# The 's' sound



Today we will be exploring the 's' sound, as in fussy and consider. There are 5 common ways of spelling this sound and 2 unusual ones. Can you think of them?

**s**

sincerely  
marvellous

**ss**

stressful  
fuss

**se**

increase  
house

**c**

sincerely  
century

**ce**

sentence  
convenience

**unusual codes**  
**st and sc**

as in **castle** and  
**science**. Did you  
notice the silent t and c  
in these codes? Can you  
think of any other words  
spelt like this?

Have you noticed that 4 of these codes only appear at the end of words, or in the middle if another suffix is added like, fuss-fussing. So, when writing a word with a 's' sound at the end remember to use trial and error to see if you've chosen the correct code. Time for a silly sentence...Some marvellous mice sat in the icy cellar of the messy house. Your turn!



# The 'z' sound



Today's sound is 'z', as in zoo and dizzy. Here is a clue for you... 's' and 'z' share 2 of the same codes. There are 5 codes for 'z' plus 1 very unusual one, how many can you think of? Let's take a look.

**z**

zebra

zip

**zz**

fizzy

whizzing

**ze**

snooze

wheeze

**x**

**xylophone**

This is very unusual and you probably won't find any other words that start with this code – unless you become a doctor!

**s**

his

hers

**se**

whose

please

So, like the 's' sound, 4 of these codes only appear at the end of words, unless another suffix has been added.

Did you spot that there is a common overlap of codes between the sounds 's' and 'z'. They are 's' and 'se' which can make both sounds...silly/his and mouse/please. Say them now and hear the difference so you are ready for the next session on sound sorting. What's your silly sentence today?

Snoozing zebras sneezed on his vase full of roses.



# Sound Sorting

Can you remember the 2 codes which represent both of the sounds 's' and 'z'? Here they are...

**s**

system	forwards
symbol	busy

**se**

promise	recognise
increase	surprise

Did you think of any 3 and 4 syllable words...do they have vowels in each syllable, or do they have the letter 'y' instead?

Remember to read down each column to check that you have sorted your words correctly.

The silly moose chose to sit on his sore bruise...ouch!





# The 'l' sound



Today we will look at the 'l' sound as in label, final and pupil. Did you notice that some of these codes appear at the end of words. There are 6 codes to find. Let's have a look...

**l**  
length  
leisure

**ll**  
fallen  
swollen

**le**  
apple  
cattle

**al**  
hospital  
global

**il**  
fossil  
pupil

**el**  
label  
shovel

As 5 of these codes appear at the end of the root word (fall/fallen) or the end of a word you will often need to use trial and error to decide which is the correct 'l' code at the end of a word. Can you think of a silly sentence which uses each of these codes?

Laughing pupils shovel colossal fallen apples.



# The 'k' sound



Today's sound is 'k' as in trick and kicking. There are 4 codes to find... you know what to do! Let's see how you got on...

**k**  
kicking  
kittens

**c**  
circle  
calendar

**ck**  
sticky  
tricked

**ch**  
character  
echoes

How many 4 and 5 syllable words did you find? Did you notice that 'ck' will only be found at the end of a root word or the end of a word – never at the beginning of a word.

What's your silly sentence?

Sticky kittens create chaos.



# The 'd' sound



Today's sound is 'd' as in desperate and describe. There are 3 codes for this sound. Can you think of them? Let's see if you are right...

**d**

definite  
different

**dd**

middle  
huddled

**ed**

This code is used to  
form the past tense.

opened

Sometimes it sounds  
like 't' as in

tracked

Can you think of 3 words that begin with the prefix 'dis'? This will make the opposite of the original word ...appear... disappear. Now try a silly sentence with one of these in it too. Dripping ducks disappeared in the muddy puddle.



# The 'j' sound



Today we will look at the 'j' sound as in jelly, and strange. There are 4 codes to find. Let's have a look...

**j**

jealous  
enjoy

**ge**

average  
strange

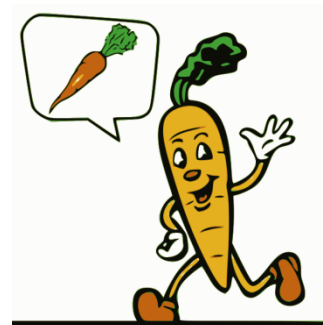
**dge**

knowledge  
bridge

**g**

general  
vegetable

Did you notice that 2 of these codes only appear at the end of a word, unless a suffix is then added...strange/ strangely. So when writing a word with the 'j' sound at the end remember to use trial and error to make sure you have selected the correct ending. Silly sentence time...Vegetables generally jump joyfully over large bridges.



# The 'v' sound



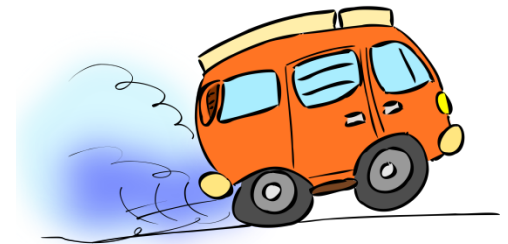
Today we will look at the 'v' sound as in never and serve. There are 2 codes for this sound and 1 very unusual one. Can you find them? Let's have a look.

**v**  
never  
vast

**ve**  
serve  
leave

**vv**  
revving  
This is very unusual, you will  
hardly ever see words with  
'vv' in them

An easy spelling rule to remember is that words which end with the 'v' sound always have an 'e' on the end..curve, swerve, gave etc...  
What's today's silly sentence?  
Never leave vast vans revving.



# The 'g' sound



Today's sound is 'g' as in grumble and wiggle. There are 4 codes to find., but 2 of them include silent letters. Let's see if you can find them all...

**g**

bargain  
government

**gg**

wiggling  
giggled

**gh**

ghost  
ghetto

**gu**

guarantee  
guard

verb  
adverb  
noun  
pronoun  
adjective  
vowel  
consonant

How many syllables are in today's longest word? Can you find the vowel sound in each syllable?

Silly sentence time...

The giggling grannies guaranteed good grammar.

Your turn!



# The 'm' sound



Today we will look at the 'm' sound as in maths and summertime. There are 4 codes to find and 2 of them contain silent letters. Can you think of them?

**m**

medicine  
mischievous

**mm**

committee  
programme

**mb**

thumb  
plumbing

**mn**

autumn  
column

Where do these codes appear in words? Do we ever see a double consonant at the beginning of a word? What is your silly sentence for today?

Mischievous mammoths climb mountains in autumn.



# The 'f' sound



Today we will look at the 'f' sound, as in February and forty. There are 4 codes to find and 2 of them don't have the letter 'f' in them at all! Can you think of all of them?

**f**

February  
sacrifice

**ff**

difficult  
sufficient

**ph**

telephone  
physical

**gh**

enough  
roughest

Can you add prefixes or suffixes to some of the words in the word bank to create 4 and maybe even 5 syllable words?

Sufficient...sufficiently...insufficiently

What word categories do these come under and what do you think it means?

Silly sentence time...

Foreign fog in February made physical activities funny.





# The 'n' sound



Today we will look at the 'n' sound, as in naughty and necessary. There are 5 codes to find and 3 of them contain silent letters. Can you think of them?

**n**

naughtiest  
uninterested

**nn**

funniest  
winning

**gn**

gnashing  
design

**kn**

knowledge  
unknown

**pn**

pneumatic  
pneumonia



There are some tricky words here...do you know what they mean? Did you try to find multisyllable words and did you use prefixes and suffixes?  
The silly sentence for today is...Naughty neighbours' newts gnaw on knotted hankies.  
Your turn...



# The 'w' sound



The final sound is 'w' as in weather and wasn't. There are only 2 codes to find and 1 has a silent letter in it? Can you think of them?

**w**

weather  
weight

**wh**

whether  
whirlwind

There are two common words that begin with the code 'wh' but sound like 'h', can you think of them?

who and whole

There are quite a few odd spellings in the English language that we just have to learn to spell.

Today's silly sentences are tongue twisters ...I wonder whether the weather will be wet or windy? Whatever the weather we will wind up wet.



# Odd Spellings

As we discussed in the last slide, there are some words that don't seem to follow any familiar spelling pattern, so we just need to learn how to spell them correctly. Here are the most common ones and they often appear in spelling tests!

answer

yacht

island

asthma

colonel

two

twelfth

rhythm

vehicle

receipt

queue

foreign

language

thorough

Wednesday

February

You will probably come across some more unusual spellings so be sure to add them to your word bank and learn how to spell them.

