

Common Exception Words for Y1

These are the words that children need to be able to spell by the end of Year 1. They are called ‘common exception words’ (CEWs) because most of them do not follow the traditional rules of phonics and just have to be learnt ‘off by heart’. Some of the words will become easier to spell when children have learnt more graphemes (sounds) as we continue our phonics teaching.

We have divided the words into six lists so that you can work on each list with your child in the relevant term at home. We will be including the spelling of CEWs in our daily phonics lessons and throughout our English teaching. We will test the children on the term’s CEWs at the end of each term. However, please remember that for a child to be truly consistent in spelling a word, they need to be able to spell it correctly within sentences and longer pieces of writing as well as tests.

At the end of each term, we will send an annotated copy of this document as a reminder of the words for the next term and so you will be able to see which words your child is now spelling consistently and which words they still need to work on. This document is also available on the CKIS website should you need another copy.

Strategies for spelling these words include making up mnemonics and rhymes (e.g. was – ‘whales and snails’, people – ‘people eat oranges people like eggs’), writing them repeatedly in fun ways (e.g. in sand, chalk, paint etc.) or using the ‘look, cover, write, check’ method and noticing patterns and tricks to help (e.g. ‘they’ is ‘the’ with a ‘y’ on the end).

Thank you in advance for your support.

Year 1 common exception words

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
the to I a was they is his	said says of are by one once	be he me she we do love	push put pull full some come you your	my no go so there where our has	here were school today house ask friend