

Common Exception Words for Y2

These are the words that children need to be able to spell by the end of Year 2. 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 2 common exception words

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
child	Christmas	behind	after	beautiful	who
children	both	find	pass	pretty	whole
would	cold	kind	grass	break	prove
should	gold	mind	class	steak	improve
could	hold	wild	path	great	move
again	told	climb	bath	Mr	busy
because	old	door	past	Mrs	clothes
every	most	floor	fast	money	eye
everybody	only	poor	last	parents	even
any	sugar	half	plant	people	father
many	sure	hour	water		

