

Longman English Guides



Spelling

S H BURTON

Titles in the series

Punctuation
Jan Gordon

ABC of Common Errors
S H Burton

Writing Letters
S H Burton

Spelling
S H Burton

In preparation

Study Skills

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vowel, consonant, prefix, suffix, singular,
plural, noun, adjective, verb

INTRODUCTION

Most of the words that cause spelling trouble are listed here and they are dealt with in four different ways

Traps

Are there two g's in exaggerate?

Is gauge an -AU- word or a -UA- word?

We often know what the traps are, but we don't know how to avoid them That is why words are listed in *families* in this section, grouped in spelling traps

Words that confuse

This section lists words that are often mixed up For example, it sorts out altar/alter, and to/too/two, and other tricky sets of words that bother a lot of people

Spelling list

When we misspell a word, we don't get all of it wrong We slip up at the 'accident spot(s)' In this section, all the commonly misspelt words are listed, and every one has its accident spot(s) underlined.

Rules to remember

Many spelling rules are complicated and there are many exceptions to most of them – words that look as if they ought to obey the rules, but don't The rules included here are the simple ones and each one deals with a basic spelling point

If you tackle spelling along these lines you'll solve many everyday spelling problems.

S H Burton

TRAPS

Double letter words

Double b

abbreviate
abbreviation
babble
dabble
flabby
gobble
hobble

hobby
pebble
rabbit
rabble
robber
rubber
rubbish

scribble
shabby
shrubbery
squabble
stubble
stubborn
wobble

Double c

accelerate
accent
accept
accessory
accident
acclaim
accompanied
accompany
accommodation
accomplish
accomplished

according
account
accumulate
accumulator
accurate
accuse
accustom
eccentric
occasion
occasional
occasionally

occupation
occupier
occupied
occupy
occur
occurred
occurrence
occurring
succeed
success
tobacco

Double d

add
address
fiddle
giddy

middle
muddle
odd
puddle

riddle
rudder
shudder
sudden

Double f

affair
affection
afford
coffee
daffodil

efficient
effort
offensive
paraffin
raffle

scaffold
sufficient
suffocate
toffee
traffic

Double g

aggravate
beggar
exaggerate

haggard
luggage
suggest

toboggan
trigger
'wriggle

Double l

cellar
challenge
collar
collect
collision

excellent
gallon
illumination
illustration
intelligent

million
pillar
polling
swallow
villain

Double m

accommodate
accommodation
command

commence
commission
common

grammar
immediate
recommend

Double n

anniversary
announcer
annual
beginning

channel
connect
innocence
innumerable

manner
runner
tennis
tyranny

Double p

apparatus
apparent
appeal
appear
appearance
appetite
applause

applied
appoint
approach
approval
approximate
opponent
opportunity

oppose
opposing
opposite
oppress
support
supporter
suppress

Double r

arrange
arrears
arrest
arrive
barrel
barrier
barrister
carnage

catarrh
correspondence
embarrass
erratic
horrible
hurricane
irregular
irritable

irritate
irritation
marnage
quarrel
quarry
terrible
territorial
torrent

Double s

depression
discuss
dismiss
dissatisfied
embarrassed
essay
excess
excessive

express
harassed
harness
impossible
issue
message
messenger
necessity

passage
passenger
passport
pessimist
pressure
procession
profession
scissors

Double t

attach
attachment
attack
attempt
attire
attitude

attract
attractive
battery
battle
butt (barrel)
cottage

lettuce
matter
mattress
motto
settlement
smattering

Double z

blizzard
buzzard
dazzle

dizzy
drizzle
embezzle

muzzle
nozzle
puzzle

Silent letter words

Silent b

bomb
bombed
bomber
bombing
climb
climbed
climber
comb
combed
comber

combing
crumb
debt
debtor
doubt
doubted
doubter
doubting
dumb
indebted

lamb
limb
numb
numbed
numbing
plumb
plumbed
plumbing
thumb
tomb

Silent g

consign
consignment
design
designer
feign

foreigner
gnarled
gnash
gnat
gnaw

neigh
resign
sign
signing
sleigh

Silent k

knack
knave
knee
kneel
kneeling
knelt
knife

knight
knit
knitted
knitting
knob
knock
knocked

knocker
knocking
knot
know
known
knowledge
knuckle

Silent p

pneumatic
pneumonia
psalm

pseudonym
psychiatry
psychic

psychology
psychopath
receipt

Silent w

wrangle
wrap
wrath
wreath
wren
wrench

wreck
wrestle
wretch
wriggle
wring
wrinkle

wrist
write
writing
written
wrong
wry

-au-

assault
astronaut
auction
audit
aunt
author
authority
autograph
automatic
automobile
autumn
because
caught

cauliflower
caution
chauffeur
daughter
draught
exhaust
fault
fraud
gauge
gauze
haughty
haul
haunt

laugh
launch
laundry
naughty
pause
restaurant
sauce
sausage
slaughter
somersault
tarpaulin
taught
taut

-ua-

acquainted
annual
continual
equal
equation
equator
estuary
gradual
guarantee

guard
language
manual
persuade
persuasion
punctual
quaint
qualify
quality

quantity
quarter
quaver
quay
situated
squabble
squall
squander
square

gh

gh silent

borough	fright	thigh
bough	might	thorough
bought	nought	though
dough	plough	thought
fought	sight	through

gh pronounced f

cough	enough	rough
coughing	laugh	tough
draught	laughter	trough

gh pronounced g

aghost	ghetto	ghoul
ghastly	ghost	ghyll
gherkin	ghostly	

ph

Words beginning with ph

phantom	phlegm	physician
phase	phrase	physics
pheasant	physical	physique

Words ending with ph

autograph	epitaph	paragraph
cenotaph	graph	triumph

NOTE photograph

Words containing ph

alphabet	microphone	sphere
apostrophe	nephew	sulphur
elephant	orphan	symphony
emphasise	siphon or	telephone
emphatic	syphon	typhoon
geography		

ch

ch pronounced 'soft' (as in church or moustache)

avalanche	machinery	schedule
bachelor	quench	treachery
detachment	sandwich	which

ch pronounced 'hard' (k sound as in monarch)

ache	chemistry	echoes
anarchy	choir	orchestra
anchor	chord	scheme
architect	chorus	school
chemist	echo	schooner

ch

batch	fetch	patch
butcher	itch	stretch
catch	kitchen	thatched
dispatch or	match	watch
despatch	notch	wretch
ditch		

Words beginning with des

descend	description	despondent
descendant	deserve	destination
descent	design	destroy
describe	desire	destruction

Words beginning with dis

disable	disastrous	disobedient
disagreeable	disciple	dissect
disappoint	discipline	dissent
disarrange	discuss	dissipate
disaster	dismiss	dissolve

Words ending with sion

REMEMBER Most words that end with the 'shon' sound have the spelling *tion* at the end. Here are the most common words that have the spelling *sion*.

admission	expression	persuasion
collision	extension	provision
commission	occasion	session
concussion	omission	submission
discussion	oppression	succession
expansion	permission	transmission