

This document outlines some important information regarding the common exception words that your children will be focusing on this academic year.

As you may know, common exception words are terms that do not adhere to the typical spelling rules. They are frequently used in both written and spoken English, which is why they have earned the title 'common.' Each half-term, your child will be given a new set of these words to learn alongside their usual spelling practice.

To reinforce their learning, we ask that you encourage your child to practise these words at home. This could involve writing them out, testing them verbally or through written exercises, or even engaging them with spelling games available online. Such activities will greatly assist in improving their reading and writing skills.

The National Curriculum sets clear expectations for children to be able to read and spell these common exception words accurately, as well as to use them effectively in their writing. When we assess your child's writing, part of our evaluation criteria includes their use of these words and whether they are spelled correctly.

Below, you will find the list of common exception words that we will focus on this term, which we encourage children to continue practising throughout the term, as well as throughout the rest of the year:

accident, accidentally, actual, actually, address, although, answer, appear, arrive, believe, bicycle, breath, breathe, build, busy, business

Looking ahead, here are the new common exception words that your child will be learning in the upcoming Spring 2 term:

calendar, caught, centre, century, certain, circle, complete, consider, continue decide, describe, different, difficult, disappear, early, earth

Please find below the Year 3 and 4 common exceptions word mat. These are all the common exception words that are learnt across Year 3 and 4. Although we focus on an amount of common exception words each half-term,, it would be great for children to get into a routine of practising as many as they can regularly.

Year 3 and 4 Statutory Spellings

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|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| accident | calendar | eight | guide | mention | possession | straight |
| accidentally | caught | eighth | heard | minute | possible | strange |
| actual | centre | enough | heart | natural | potatoes | strength |
| actually | century | exercise | height | naughty | pressure | suppose |
| address | certain | experience | history | notice | probably | surprise |
| although | circle | experiment | imagine | occasion | promise | therefore |
| answer | complete | extreme | important | occasionally | purpose | though |
| appear | consider | famous | increase | often | quarter | thought |
| arrive | continue | favourite | interest | opposite | question | through |
| believe | decide | February | island | ordinary | recent | various |
| bicycle | describe | forward | knowledge | particular | regular | weight |
| breath | different | forwards | learn | peculiar | reign | woman |
| breathe | difficult | fruit | length | perhaps | remember | women |
| build | disappear | grammar | library | popular | sentence | |
| busy | early | group | material | position | separate | |
| business | earth | guard | medicine | possess | special | |