

Grade 4

List 1

Open syllables (V/CV)

1. An open syllable ends with a vowel which has a long sound (It says its own name.). An open syllable may have a single final vowel such as in *be* or *go*, or it may be part of a longer word (*o-pen*).

Pattern Word

1. famous
2. demand
3. decide
4. human
5. began
6. local
7. beside
8. future
9. silence
10. motor

High Use Words

11. often
12. near
13. school
14. might
15. close

Content Words

16. number
17. calendar
18. rectangle
19. square
20. estimation

List 2

Open syllables (VV)

1. The words on this list all have two or three syllables.
2. The first syllable is open – making the first vowel sound long.

Pattern Word

1. trial
2. idea
3. create
4. react
5. ruin
6. science
7. really
8. dial
9. violin
10. chaos

High Use Words

11. group
12. night
13. always
14. beginning
15. following

Content Words

16. rounding
17. perimeter
18. area
19. length
20. width

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List 3

Double Vowel Syllables: - ai and ay

1. With this list of vowel pairs, the first vowel uses its long sound and the second vowel is silent (in most cases).
2. The **ai** vowel combination is used in the beginning or in the middle of a word or syllable.
3. The **ay** vowel combination usually occurs at the end of a word or syllable.

Pattern Word

1. slay
2. stray
3. holiday
4. Monday
5. stain
6. faith
7. sprain
8. plain
9. aim
10. afraid

High Use Words

11. afternoon
12. color
13. become
14. questions
15. thought

Content Words

16. America
17. community
18. family
19. mountain
20. nation

List 4

Double Vowel Syllables: oa and oe

1. The **oa** vowel combination is most often used in the beginning or in the middle of a word or syllable.
2. The first vowel has the long sound and the second vowel is silent (in most cases).
3. The **oe** vowel combination is most often used at the end of a word.

Pattern Word

1. coal
2. groan
3. throat
4. roam
5. goal
6. toaster
7. doe
8. goes
9. tiptoe
10. toenail

High Use Words

11. while
12. don't
13. children
14. until
15. watch

Content Words

16. Connecticut
17. Hartford
18. northeast
19. county
20. river

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List 5

Double Vowel Syllables: ea

1. This is a tricky letter combination to spell.
2. The second vowel is usually silent.
3. The **/e/** in this letter combination can either make a long or short sound.

Pattern Word

1. spread
2. measure
3. already
4. sweater
5. meadow
6. teacher
7. peanut
8. beast
9. season
10. breathe

High Use Words

11. area
12. problem
13. friends
14. heard
15. easy

Content Words

16. behavior
17. energy
18. force
19. motion
20. magnet

List 6

Mixed List

This spelling list combines words from the last five lists and their rules.

Pattern Word

1. toenail
2. holiday
3. famous
4. teacher
5. chaos
6. ruin
7. meadow
8. science
9. dial
10. decide

High Use Words

11. always
12. measure
13. until
14. friends
15. area

Content Words

16. behavior
17. America
18. calendar
19. perimeter
20. Connecticut

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List 7

Double Vowel Syllables: -ie and ei

1. The first vowel in this list of words is pronounced with its long sound and the second vowel is silent (in most cases).
2. Place **i** before **e** except after **c**, or when it makes a long **a** sound like in neighbor or weigh.

Pattern Word

1. niece
2. pierce
3. believe
4. ceiling
5. receipt
6. deceive
7. receive
8. neighbor
9. freight
10. weight

High Use Words

11. hours
12. measure
13. remember
14. early
15. waves

Content Words

16. Internet
17. navigate
18. icon
19. document
20. graphics

List 8

Suffixes: -able and -ible

1. A **root** word (base word) is a word without a prefix or suffix.
2. A **suffix** is a group of letters added at the end of a word to change its meaning.
3. The suffix **-able** is usually used when the root word is a full word.
4. The suffix **-ible** is usually used when the root is not a word.

Pattern Word

1. comfortable
2. lovable
3. noticeable
4. agreeable
5. affordable
6. possible
7. visible
8. terrible
9. edible
10. incredible

High Use Words

11. table
12. notice
13. south
14. I'll
15. certain

Content Words

16. author
17. alphabet
18. character
19. conversation
20. folktale

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List 9

Pattern: - ough, -ound

1. The **-ought** pattern is pronounced /aw/ like in saw.
2. The **-ound** pattern is pronounced /ow/ like in cow.

Pattern Word

1. bought
2. fought
3. brought
4. thought
5. sought
6. hound
7. mound
8. ground
9. surround
10. astound

High Use Words

11. field
12. travel
13. done
14. English
15. half

Content Words

16. dictionary
17. discussion
18. chapter
19. connection
20. question

List 10

Suffixes: -tion, -sion

1. A **root** word (base word) is a word without a prefix or suffix.
2. A suffix is a group of letters added at the end of a word to change its meaning.
3. The **-tion** and **-sion** suffixes are pronounced /shun/.

Pattern Word

1. lotion
2. station
3. vacation
4. action
5. location
6. questions
7. vision
8. decision
9. division
10. occasion

High Use Words

11. finally
12. wait
13. correct
14. quickly
15. became

Content Words

16. compare
17. contrast
18. novel
19. textbook
20. fiction

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List 11

Contractions

1. A contraction is a word that is formed from two or more words by omitting or combining some sounds.
2. The apostrophe is used to indicate missing letters in the original words.

Pattern Word

1. you'd
2. they'll
3. would've
4. shouldn't
5. I'm
6. he'll
7. they'd
8. could've
9. I'd
10. we've

High Use Words

11. shown
12. minutes
13. strong
14. inches
15. street

Content Words

16. noun
17. verb
18. adjective
19. adverb
20. sentence

List 12

Mixed List

This spelling list combines words from the last five lists and their rules.

Pattern Word

1. believe
2. edible
3. bought
4. questions
5. they'll
6. receipt
7. could've
8. location
9. visible
10. astound

High Use Words

11. minutes
12. quickly
13. hours
14. certain
15. English

Content Words

16. sentence
17. textbook
18. dictionary
19. author
20. internet

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List 13

Diphthong: ow

1. The words on this list have vowels that are called diphthongs.
2. Diphthongs usually have two vowel sounds that glide into each other. .
3. The letters **ow** usually make the sounds /ou/ as in town or o as in bow.

Pattern Word

1. brow
2. plow
3. crowd
4. gown
5. growl
6. blow
7. throw
8. bowl
9. arrow
10. follow

High Use Words

11. decided
12. contain
13. course
14. surface
15. produce

Content Words

16. history
17. direction
18. distance
19. weather
20. capital

List 14

Plural Nouns: Adding –es

1. The words on this list are all plurals.
2. Add **es** to form the plural of words that end in **s**, **sh**, **ch**, **z**, and **x**.
3. The **e** is necessary to make the plural forms pronounceable.

Pattern Word

1. dresses
2. dishes
3. foxes
4. sandwiches
5. wrenches
6. bushes
7. churches
8. branches
9. passes
10. quizzes

High Use Words

11. ocean
12. building
13. nothing
14. carefully
15. scientists

Content Words

16. physical
17. education
18. musical
19. library
20. color

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List 15

Pattern -igh

1. The words on this list all have a letter pattern with –igh.
2. The **–igh** pattern is pronounced as a long **i** sound.
3. To spell these words you have to remember that the long i sound can sometimes be spelled with three letters.
4. Recall how these words look before you try to spell them.

Pattern Word

1. high
2. tight
3. brighten
4. sigh
5. height
6. frighten
7. alright
8. thigh
9. sight
10. slight

High Use Words

11. short
12. better
13. order
14. grow
15. begin

Content Words

16. multiplication
17. geometry
18. fraction
19. meter
20. graph

List 16

Prefixes: dis-, im-, and in-

1. A prefix is placed before a root word to change its meaning.
2. The spelling of the root word is not changed when adding a prefix.
3. The prefix **dis-** means “not” or “opposite”.
4. The prefixes **im-** and **in-** mean “not”.

Pattern Word

1. dislike
2. disappear
3. disobey
4. disown
5. disagree
6. incorrect
7. impolite
8. impossible
9. incomplete
10. impatient

High Use Words

11. ago
12. brought
13. stood
14. system
15. behind

Content Words

16. height
17. capacity
18. volume
19. ruler
20. polygon

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List 17

List 18

Homophones

1. A homophone is a word which is pronounced identically to another word, but is spelled differently and has a different meaning.

Mixed List

This spelling list combines words from the last five lists and their rules.

Pattern Word

1. pair
2. pear
3. meet
4. meat
5. waste
6. waist
7. know
8. no
9. seen
10. scene

Pattern Word

1. pair
2. follow
3. wrenches
4. crowd
5. alright
6. impatient
7. pear
8. height
9. quizzes
10. impolite

High Use Words

11. leave
12. voice
13. verb
14. known
15. machine

High Use Words

11. known
12. decided
13. system
14. carefully
15. order

Content Words

16. similarities
17. differences
18. ecosystem
19. water cycle
20. environment

Content Words

16. physical
17. height
18. capital
19. environment
20. multiplication

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List 19

List 20

R- controlled vowels: -ir, -er, -ur.

1. The **-ir** pattern sounds /ur/ as in bird.
2. The **-er** pattern sounds /ur/ as in her.
3. The **-ur** pattern sounds /ur/ as in fur.
4. The spelling or “r controlled” syllables often has to be memorized because the vowels may sound very similar.

Pattern Word

1. birth
2. thirst
3. circus
4. twirl
5. percent
6. service
7. perhaps
8. miserable
9. burden
10. purpose

High Use Words

11. understand
12. wheels
13. town
14. fall
15. common

Content Word

16. cause
17. effect
18. respond
19. literature
20. poetry

Plural nouns ending in f or fe

1. If a noun ends with f or fe, change the f or fe to v and add -es to make it plural.

Pattern Word

1. calf
2. calves
3. leaf
4. leaves
5. loaf
6. loaves
7. knife
8. knives
9. thief
10. thieves

High Use Words

11. fire
12. explain
13. though
14. language
15. thousands

Content Words

16. journal
17. introduction
18. conclusion
19. grammar
20. detail

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List 21

Word beginnings: thr, scr, str, squ

1. The words on this list all begin with a consonant blend.
2. To spell these words correctly you need to listen carefully to how they are pronounced and hear each of the sounds.
3. Spell these words slowly and double check the sounds.
4. Remember that q is always followed by a u and that it sounds like /kw/.

Pattern Word

1. thrash
2. through
3. strange
4. square
5. squeeze
6. threat
7. thrown
8. scrape
9. squeal
10. squirm

High Use Words

11. circle
12. heavy
13. weather
14. square
15. perhaps

Content Word

16. colonial
17. ceremony
18. explorer
19. independence
20. leader

List 22

Suffixes: -er, -est

1. The suffixes **-er** and **-est** are used to make comparative adjectives.
2. When the word ends in **y**, change the y to an **i** before adding **-er** or **-est**.
3. When the word contains a short vowel, double the final consonant before adding **-er** or **-est**.

Pattern Word

1. smaller
2. smallest
3. hotter
4. hottest
5. funnier
6. funniest
7. larger
8. largest
9. happier
10. happiest

High Use Words

11. black
12. shape
13. clear
14. equation
15. government

Content Word

16. religion
17. national
18. region
19. culture
20. tradition

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List 23

Words beginning with sh, ch, and wh

1. The words on this list all contain a consonant digraph.
2. The letter patterns of sh-, ch-, and wh- all sound differently than the individual letters alone.

Pattern Word

1. shelter
2. chapter
3. chocolate
4. wheat
5. shallow
6. chamber
7. champion
8. whale
9. whisper
10. whistle

High Use Words

11. never
12. space
13. force
14. island
15. week

Content Words

16. matter
17. prediction
18. erosion
19. electricity
20. growth

List 24

Mixed List

This spelling list combines words from the last five lists and their rules.

Pattern Word

1. funniest
2. knives
3. perhaps
4. square
5. champion
6. happier
7. chocolate
8. thrown
9. calves
10. percent

High Use Words

11. explain
12. circle
13. equation
14. understand
15. island

Content Words

16. region
17. prediction
18. conclusion
19. literature
20. independence

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List 25

List 26

Words containing sh, ch, and tch

Plural Nouns

1. When a noun ends with a vowel **+y**, just add an **s** to make it plural.
2. When a noun ends in consonant **+y**, change the **y** to **i** and add **es**.

Pattern Word

Pattern Word

1. arch
2. pitcher
3. watch
4. catcher
5. punish
6. kitchen
7. fetch
8. approach
9. sandwich
10. attach

1. pulleys
2. chimneys
3. journeys
4. turkeys
5. blueberries
6. enemies
7. batteries
8. mysteries
9. supplies
10. countries

High Use Words

High Use Words

11. war
12. object
13. heat
14. filled
15. among

11. step
12. syllables
13. material
14. check
15. special

Content Words

Content Words

16. decimal
17. parallelogram
18. quadrilateral
19. symmetry
20. probability

16. temperature
17. denominator
18. numerator
19. multiple
20. operation

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List 27

Phonograms: kn, gn, and wr

1. The words on this list contain two consonant letter patterns.
2. The kn- spelling pattern has a silent k sound.
3. The gn- spelling pattern has a silent g sound.
4. The wr- spelling pattern has a silent w sound.

Pattern Word

1. knead
2. knob
3. kneel
4. gnarl
5. design
6. assign
7. wrestle
8. wrist
9. wreath
10. wrench

High Use Words

11. sentence
12. different
13. because
14. animal
15. America

Content Words

16. continent
17. agriculture
18. manufacturing
19. pollution
20. transportation

List 28

Suffixes: -ful and ly

1. A suffix is a group of letters added at the end of a word to change its meaning.
2. In most cases, the spelling of a root word is not changed when adding a suffix if it begins with a consonant.
3. The suffix **-ful** means "full of".
4. The suffix **-ly** means "in a way that is".

Pattern Word

1. peaceful
2. thoughtful
3. wishful
4. skillful
5. kindly
6. dimly
7. closely
8. mostly
9. correctly
10. loudly

High Use Words

11. seem
12. those
13. around
14. should
15. answer

Content Words

16. health
17. doctor
18. diet
19. lifestyle
20. safety

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List 29

Hard and soft c and g

1. Usually use the letter **c** to spell **/k/** before the letters a, o, and u. (**hard c**)
2. Usually use the letter **c** to spell **/s/** before the letters e, l, and y. (**soft c**)
3. Usually use letter **g** to spell the **/g/** sound right before the letters a, o, or u. (**hard g**)
4. Usually use the letter **g** to spell the **/j/** sound before the letters e, l, or y. (**soft g**)

Pattern Word

1. complete
2. copy
3. country
4. voice
5. bounce
6. germ
7. guess
8. gentle
9. magic
10. gypsy

High Use Words

11. earth
12. point
13. include
14. built
15. cannot

Content Words

16. civic
17. political
18. Congress
19. compromise
20. citizenship

List 30

Mixed List

This spelling list combines words from the last five lists and their rules.

Pattern Word

1. complete
2. thoughtful
3. knead
4. wreath
5. kitchen
6. batteries
7. gypsy
8. approach
9. pulleys
10. skillful

High Use Words

11. built
12. because
13. seem
14. among
15. syllables

Content Words

16. denominator
17. lifestyle
18. symmetry
19. Congress
20. manufacturing

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