

Spelling

KS3 English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Build the spelling of 'unnecessarily' from its parts instead of guessing.

Step 1 · Find the root word

necessary — one c, two s's (one collar, two socks).

Step 2 · Add the prefix without changing either part

un + necessary = unnecessary. The 'n' of un- meets the 'n' of necessary, so the new word has a double n.

Step 3 · Add the suffix -ly, applying the y rule

When a word ends in a consonant + y, change y to i before most suffixes: necessary → necessari + ly.

Step 4 · Put it together and check by syllables

un-ne-ces-sar-i-ly → unnecessarily.

Answer: unnecessarily — double n from the prefix, one c, double s, y changed to i

Check: Each part keeps its own spelling; only the final y changes ✓

2. Now try one with the steps

Choose there, their or they're: '___ coats are over ___, and ___ late.'

Step 1 · Belonging to them?

Step 2 · A place?

Step 3 · They are?

Answer:

3. Practice

Show your working. The marks tell you how much is expected.

1. Explain the 'i before e except after c' rule with examples. [2]

2. How many c's and s's in 'necessary'? Give a memory trick. [2]

3. How many letter s's are there in 'necessary'? Write the number. [1]

4. Add the prefix 'dis' to 'appear'. Write the new word. [1]

5. Write the plural of 'city'. [1]

6. Correct these three misspellings: 'occassion', 'definitely', 'beleive'. [2]

7. What is the difference between 'affect' and 'effect'? Give an example of each. [2]

8. How many of these words are spelled correctly? necessary · definitely · separate · beleive · receive · fourty. Write the number. [1]

9. Add -ing to 'hope'. [1]

10. Add -ed to 'stop'. [1]

11. Write the correct homophone in each: '_____ going to the shops.' '_____ book is on the table.' 'It's over _____.' [3]

12. Name FOUR strategies for learning difficult spellings. [4]

13. Choose the correct word: 'I need to (practice / practise) the piano.' [1]

14. Spell 'unnecessarily' and explain why it has a double n. [2]

4. Before you hand it in

'I could of finished it.'

Write 'could have' (or 'could've'). The same goes for should have, would have and must have.

'disapear', 'mispell', 'unatural'

Adding a prefix never changes the root: dis + appear = disappear, mis + spell = misspell, un + natural = unnatural.

Relying on a computer spell checker

Proofread yourself, slowly, and check every homophone against its meaning in the sentence.