

Cued Spelling

Understanding, Supporting, and
Applying Cued Spelling

What is cued spelling?

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Cued spelling is a structured approach that helps children learn to spell by breaking words down into smaller, manageable parts. Instead of guessing how a word is spelled, children are guided through a step-by-step process that helps them understand the sounds in the word and how those sounds link to letters.

Why it helps

- Cued spelling:
- Strengthens phonics knowledge
- Helps children hear and separate sounds in words
- Supports memory of spelling patterns
- Builds confidence in writing
- Reduces frustration because the child is supported, not corrected

How Pupils Progress

- Over a period of time children have been pre-tested from level 1 words
- Children keep progressing in the test until they come across words they are unable to spell accurately and target words have been identified
- Children have then been trained in how to practise target words using cues (colour, chunking, mnemonics)
- Children practice and review their individual target spellings regularly with their tutor (partner in class)
- When they feel ready the teacher does a speed test with the individual child
- When the teacher is confident they have mastered the spelling
 - they choose a new word
- Children will work on mastering 4-6 words at a time
- *Everyone progresses at their own pace.*

1. Pick a new word	
2. Read the word	
3. Choose/say the clue	
4. Tutor write – check	
5. Speller write – check	
6. SPEED TEST!	

Word lists

Level 1 – Sets 1–3

- ***KS1 High-Frequency Words***
- First 300 high-frequency words
- Simple, everyday vocabulary

Builds spelling confidence and fluency

Goal: Secure the most commonly used words in writing.

Level 2 – Sets 4–6

- ***Early KS2 Transitional Words***
- 400–1000 high-frequency words
- More challenging spelling patterns

New endings and vowel combinations

Goal: Bridge from basic HFW to KS2 curriculum spelling.

Word lists

Level 3 – Sets 7–9 *Year 3/4 Statutory Spellings*

- Prefixes (dis-, mis-, re-)
- Suffixes (-ly, -sure, -ture, -ous)
- Homophones
- Tricky vowel patterns

Goal: Meet lower-KS2 National Curriculum spelling expectations.

Level 4 – Sets 10–11 *Year 5/6 Statutory Spellings & SATs Vocabulary*

- Complex Latin/Greek roots
- Harder suffixes (-cious, -tious, -ible, -able)
- Higher-level vocabulary

Goal: Prepare for upper-KS2 writing and SATs.

KS1 High-Frequency Words

<u>Set 1</u>				
<u>Red</u>	<u>Orange</u>	<u>Yellow</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>Blue</u>
I	him	are	put	make
is	her	into	down	came
in	not	get	now	could
it	and	got	from	house
if	the	look	some	children
as	up	day	Mr	made
an	big	was	just	time
at	mum	you	when	like
of	had	or	then	about
on	can	for	what	Mrs
no	do	our	back	called
go	but	will	very	asked
so	that	out	your	people
to	with	one	help	looked
dad	they	have	all	their
we	my	went	there	said
he	by	were	off	little
me	them	here	old	I'm
she	this	come	too	don't
be	his	see	saw	it's

<u>Set 2</u>				
<u>Red</u>	<u>Orange</u>	<u>Yellow</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>Blue</u>
ran	think	these	home	something
cat	thing	began	town	mouse
did	who	boy	fast	everyone
has	must	next	garden	wanted
yes	soon	would	want	new
us	took	away	round	thought
dog	good	say	found	right
man	school	may	around	might
fox	food	way	take	light
red	door	play	only	animals
fish	how	eat	night	magic
bed	over	head	other	shouted
car	more	bear	two	through
stop	find	sea	baby	laughed
lots	going	first	every	I've
must	well	work	ever	couldn't
been	long	where	never	that's
tree	know	gave	small	didn't
need	many	again	still	can't
three	live	after	king	I'll

<u>Set 3</u>				
<u>Red</u>	<u>Orange</u>	<u>Yellow</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>Blue</u>
fun	pulled	another	place	eyes
hot	better	white	suddenly	friends
hat	snow	why	rabbit	because
sun	grow	floppy	morning	please
duck	tell	coming	giant	dragon
sat	lived	wind	across	along
bad	stopped	river	horse	once
top	jumped	room	really	different
its	liked	book	hard	grandma
box	fell	last	dark	key
am	miss	boat	any	gone
let	told	air	plants	clothes
end	most	great	happy	mother
run	under	window	bird	they've
gran	cold	eggs	girl	let's
wish	trees	cried	looking	he's
than	sleep	tea	before	there's
best	keep	each	which	we're
much	queen	use	inside	she's
such	green	even	fly	haven't

Early KS2 Transitional Words

Set 4					Set 5					Set 6				
Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue
sound	always	usually	money	surface	language	energy	present	describe	government	smiled	brown	straight	flow	enjoyment
year	those	heard	voice	produce	thousand	subject	beautiful	speak	type	angle	trouble	value	lady	indicate
same	paper	order	notice	building	clear	region	edge	solve	themselves	fraction	cloud	suppose	students	except
follow	together	become	ground	ocean	quite	return	sign	appear	temperature	bottom	symbols	woman	human	experiment
kind	group	during	figure	nothing	object	believe	record	metal	paragraph	surprise	expect	coast	supply	interesting
picture	often	however	certain	carefully	among	dance	finished	either	discovered	exactly	wear	visit	corner	sense
change	important	hours	field	scientist	material	simple	iron	village	dictionary	remain	engine	whose	electric	famous
answer	until	easy	travel	wheels	special	cause	beside	factors	amount	fingers	alone	received	insects	statement
should	without	happened	done	known	heavy	exercise	million	result	instruments	least	east	strange	doctor	movement
world	enough	remember	English	island	circle	middle	sky	care	pounds	catch	choose	caught	provide	continued
part	almost	measure	half	machine	include	window	weather	buy	although	climbed	single	captain	board	branches
between	above	early	finally	system	built	build	scale	century	moment	wrote	touch	direct	modern	consider
own	mountain	reached	quickly	behind	square	distance	third	outside	possible	exciting	eight	serve	addition	suggested
below	young	listen	person	force	syllable	forest	months	quiet	natural	burning	express	desert	soldier	position
country	leave	covered	became	brought	perhaps	probably	section	already	everything	design	stream	increase	guess	entered
earth	family	several	shown	understand	direction	written	raised	instead	difference	joined	equal	history	silent	chief
while	music	towards	minutes	warm	centre	length	someone	phrase	developed	grew	decimal	maybe	rather	president
close	colour	true	strong	explain	ready	reason	whether	spring	count	valley	yourself	business	compare	rhythm
example	question	hundred	decide	dry	anything	interest	clothes	laughed	represent	key	control	separate	crowd	information
begin	complete	pattern	contain	though	general	brother	teacher	nation	wonder	mouth	practice	uncle	poem	science

Year 3/4 Statutory Spellings

<u>Set 7</u>				
<u>Red</u>	<u>Orange</u>	<u>Yellow</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>Blue</u>
major	triangle	huge	entire	receive
observe	repeated	similar	biscuit	determine
queue	western	death	autumn	restaurant
weight	column	score	arrived	immediate
process	oxygen	forward	located	possession
properly	various	juice	effect	experience
knee	agreed	weird	view	necessary
current	opposite	allow	accident	especially
shoulder	wrong	workers	whole	stretched
industry	prepared	women	bicycle	particular
company	pretty	bought	rhyme	equipment
radio	solution	march	tongue	factories
action	choir	northern	judge	medicine
capital	shoes	create	leisure	embarrass
thumb	actually	difficult	library	conditions
settled	afraid	total	license	independent
yellow	southern	adjective	naughty	photograph
dead	sugar	receipt	stomach	neighbour
chance	deal	evening	mystery	behaviour
level	office	details	weather	knowledge

<u>Set 8</u>				
<u>Red</u>	<u>Orange</u>	<u>Yellow</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>Blue</u>
knuckle	mechanic	echoes	foreign	committee
bruise	purpose	muscle	peculiar	envelope
guitar	physical	neutral	piece	deceive
courage	sympathy	yacht	volume	assistance
gnome	argument	daughter	familiar	miniature
flavour	cupboard	tissue	future	consequence
quarrel	hymn	engineer	nutritious	permanent
castle	recent	corridor	ceiling	exhausted
calm	descend	whiskers	adventure	occasionally
aunt	bargain	ancient	imagine	illustrate
honest	headache	audience	frequency	confidential
height	creatures	delicate	preferred	avenue
cheque	original	precious	expectant	organise
obvious	rehearsal	ordinary	proceed	observance
luxury	nuisance	healthy	cautious	psychology
doubt	gorgeous	disease	obedient	guarantee
violent	exceed	disguise	legible	thoroughly
yolk	colleague	qualify	essential	mischief
anxious	vicious	solemn	occupy	comfortable
patient	resign	genuine	syrup	stubborn

Year 3/4 Statutory Spellings

Year 5/6 Statutory Spellings & SATs Vocabulary

Set 9				
Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue
analyse	style	saucepan	sandwich	celebrate
horizon	revise	challenge	ridiculous	atmosphere
coward	curious	boundary	convince	appreciate
hoax	identify	success	society	correspond
suit	succeed	hurricane	heart	influence
favour	career	awkward	relevant	explanation
index	liquid	resemble	Europe	pronunciation
forbid	lawyer	exaggerate	destroy	impression
average	junction	lightning	majesty	haughty
garage	evidence	magazine	severe	encounter
-jury	haunted	illustrate	attitude	inhabitant
realise	festival	interview	scheme	knead
lecture	fruit	superior	equator	European
definite	jealous	interrupt	parallel	privilege
statue	manage	moisture	immense	inferior
wisdom	forty	persevere	popular	mosquito
sincere	operate	interfere	tomorrow	manufacture
legend	theatre	introduce	gradual	investigate
tempt	ninth	majority	umpire	marvellous
triumph	query	seize	variety	punctual



Set 10				
Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue
icicle	quarter	referee	obey	accompany
dynamite	sentence	confidence	chorus	competition
ginger	pressure	adorable	antique	international
bomb	achieve	according	basically	programme
curtain	regular	innocent	prejudice	accommodate
producer	guide	infectious	treasure	convenience
practical	apparent	promising	chemist	character
shepherd	available	persuade	Egypt	communicate
anchor	potatoes	sacrifice	injection	disastrous
gracious	aggressive	mentioned	category	existence
aerial	secretary	expedition	pyramid	tremendous
carriage	vehicle	aeroplane	interact	environment
miserable	frequently	vegetable	amateur	accidentally
address	attached	nutritious	myth	opportunity
breath	signature	knight	unique	mischievous
breathe	reign	recognise	illegal	consideration
calendar	twelfth	crescent	cemetery	individual
disappear	occur	profession	irregular	mysterious
guard	gymnast	visitor	vein	parliament
learn	weary	scene	pleasure	recommend

Year 5/6 Statutory Spellings & SATs

Vocabulary

<u>Set 11</u>				
<u>Red</u>	<u>Orange</u>	<u>Yellow</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>Blue</u>
imminent	meticulous	hierarchy	schedule	sergeant
harassed	changeable	collectible	pastime	supersede
education	alternatively	condemn	publicly	tyranny
resilient	conscience	ignorance	medieval	confusion
moreover	contaminate	existence	misspell	preference
conscious	disgruntled	precede	memento	compelling
discipline	exhilarate	miniscule	boisterous	bewildered
Immature	detrimental	manoeuvre	contravene	transmitter
ceremony	preposterous	vacuum	millennium	picnicking
irresistible	frightening	jewellery	courageous	shovelling
illiterate	irresponsible	desperate	noticeable	committed
consumed	consequently	committed	intelligence	transferred
despite	inappropriate	deafening	threshold	equipped
reportedly	inconspicuous	sincerely	referred	beginning
pristine	encourage	glimpsed	occurrence	regrettable
acquire	accommodation	notorious	reference	profiting
grateful	questionnaire	liaison	cacophony	deference
gauge	indispensable	personnel	treacherous	admittance
fiery	maintenance	perplexed	fatigue	unstoppable
heir	conscientious	ominous	conscious	panicking

Strategies to support spelling

<p>RULES</p> <p>"i before e, except after c"</p>	<p>WORD IN WORDS</p> <p>shep/herd care/taker water/fall</p>	<p>AND BACKS</p> <p>Starts (like "sta-", "pre-", "un-")</p> <p>finishes (like "-tion", "-ate", "-ous", "-ght")</p>
<p>FAMILIES</p> <p>station nation frustration elation relation</p>	<p>MAKE A PICTURE</p> <p>island</p>  <p>An island is land surrounded by water</p>	<p>RELATIONS</p> <p>Know or no? know - knew</p> <p>(knowledge is the key to success)</p>
<p>SHRINK AND GROW</p> <p>like "par" in "separate". n e c e s s a r y - has 1 collar & 2 socks.</p>	<p>FIX & STRETCH MEANING</p> <p>Talkin g about the full and exact meaning and use of the word makes it more interesting, and help fix it in the learner's mind.</p>	<p>FUNNIES</p>  <p>b - an - an - as</p>
<p>RHYME AND RHYTHM</p> <p>"i before e except after c".</p> <p>c-h-e-c-k</p> <p>— . . . —</p>	<p>HIGHLIGHT</p> <p>castle</p>	<p>Mnemonics</p> <p>bec aus e -</p> <p>big elephants cannot always use small escalators</p> <p>caught - cats always use great heavy toilets</p>