

Thank you for downloading this resource. Included here are 30 poems designed to highlight each of the statutory spelling requirements to be taught in Year 2, as per the National Curriculum. Each poem is full of loads of examples of the specific spelling rule, presented in a memorable child-friendly fashion.

These poems could be used in lots of ways, either in their entirety as the basis for a scheme of work to teach spelling or being used as and when needed for a spelling rule that you think needs more review. They could be printed into a booklet and given out at the start of the year to the children for them to read at home, or perhaps given once a week as part of spelling home learning.

Lesson Ideas

- Have children read a poem and see what they notice. Can they spot a spelling pattern that is prominent? Show them the 'top tip' as and when needed to help them.
- Can they find/underline all the examples of the spelling pattern (perhaps working in pairs)?
- Can they write any more examples of this spelling pattern that they know which aren't in the poem?
- Can they copy a verse from the poem, making sure to spell the focus words correctly each time?
- Can they write their own poem or silly sentences using the focus words?
- Can they 'pyramid write' the words you are focusing on today?
- Can they 'say it silly' and phonetically pronounce a word in a fun way to remember how to spell it?
- Can they make up a dance or some hand actions to remember today's top tip?

Check back at www.bigblogofteachingideas.com for new ideas and resources, updated weekly. You can sign up on my blog to get a notification when a new post appears, or you can follow me on Twitter at @mrmichaelplews. If you really like what you see on my site, why not leave me a comment?

Kind Regards,

Michael Plews

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National Curriculum Links

Statutory Requirement	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)	Poem To Use
The /dʒ/ sound spelt as ge and dge at the end of words, and sometimes spelt as g elsewhere in words before e, i and y	<p>The letter j is never used for the /dʒ/ sound at the end of English words.</p> <p>At the end of a word, the /dʒ/ sound is spelt –dge straight after the /æ/, /ɛ/, /ɪ/, /ɒ/, /ʌ/ and /ʊ/ sounds (sometimes called 'short' vowels).</p> <p>After all other sounds, whether vowels or consonants, the /dʒ/ sound is spelt as –ge at the end of a word.</p> <p>In other positions in words, the /dʒ/ sound is often (but not always) spelt as g before e, i, and y. The /dʒ/ sound is always spelt as j before a, o and u.</p>	badge, edge, bridge, dodge, fudge	The Judge-Bridge Tongue-Twist
		age, huge, change, charge, bulge, village	End of the Stone Age
		gem, giant, magic, giraffe, energy	Geoff the Gentle Ginger Giraffe
		jacket, jar, jog, join, adjust	Jack the Ant
The /s/ sound spelt c before e, i and y		race, ice, cell, city, fancy	Ice Race
The /n/ sound spelt kn and (less often) gn at the beginning of words	The 'k' and 'g' at the beginning of these words was sounded hundreds of years ago.	knock, know, knee, gnat, gnaw	The Scaredest Knight Gnat and Gnome
The /r/ sound spelt wr at the beginning of words	This spelling probably also reflects an old pronunciation.	write, written, wrote, wrong, wrap	Mistakes

Statutory Requirement	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)	Poem To Use
The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt -le at the end of words	The -le spelling is the most common spelling for this sound at the end of words.	table, apple, bottle, little, middle	Colin the Clown
The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt -el at the end of words	The -el spelling is much less common than -le. The -el spelling is used after m, n, r, s, v, w and more often than not after s .	camel, tunnel, squirrel, travel, towel, tinsel	Derek the Squirrel
The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt -al at the end of words	Not many nouns end in -al, but many adjectives do.	metal, pedal, capital, hospital, animal	Animal City
Words ending -il	There are not many of these words.	pencil, fossil, nostril	Tiny Devil
The /aɪ/ sound spelt -y at the end of words	This is by far the most common spelling for this sound at the end of words.	cry, fly, dry, try, reply, July	Pete the Baby Pigeon
Adding -es to nouns and verbs ending in -y	The y is changed to i before -es is added.	flies, tries, replies, copies, babies, carries	Dad's Fries
Adding -ed, -ing, -er and -est to a root word ending in -y with a consonant before it	The y is changed to i before -ed, -er and -est are added, but not before -ing as this would result in ii . The only ordinary words with ii are <i>skiing</i> and <i>taxiing</i> .	copied, copier, happier, happiest, cried, replied ... but copying, crying, replying	Santa Contest

Statutory Requirement	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)	Poem To Use
Adding the endings –ing, –ed, –er, –est and –y to words ending in –e with a consonant before it	The –e at the end of the root word is dropped before –ing, –ed, –er, –est, –y or any other suffix beginning with a vowel letter is added. Exception: <i>being</i> .	hiking, hiked, hiker, nicer, nicest, shiny	Hiker Biker
Adding –ing, –ed, –er, –est and –y to words of one syllable ending in a single consonant letter after a single vowel letter	The last consonant letter of the root word is doubled to keep the vowel 'short'. Exception: The letter 'x' is never doubled: <i>mixing, mixed, boxer, sixes</i> .	patting, patted, humming, hummed, dropping, dropped, sadder, saddest, fatter, fattest, runner, runny	Runner Bunny
The /ɔ:/ sound spelt a before l and ll	The ɔ sound ('or') is usually spelt as a before l and ll .	all, ball, call, walk, talk, always	Best Friends
The /ʌ/ sound spelt o		other, mother, brother, nothing, Monday	Lying Brother
The /i:/ sound spelt –ey	The plural of these words is formed by the addition of –s (<i>donkeys, monkeys, etc.</i>).	key, donkey, monkey, chimney, valley	Donkey and Monkey

Statutory Requirement	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)	Poem To Use
The /ɒ/ sound spelt a after w and qu	a is the most common spelling for the /ɒ/ ('hot') sound after w and qu .	want, watch, wander, quantity, squash	Pond Troll
The /ɜ:/ sound spelt or after w	There are not many of these words.	word, work, worm, world, worth	Magic Word
The /ɔ:/ sound spelt ar after w	There are not many of these words.	war, warm, towards	Yeti War
The /z/ sound spelt s		television, treasure, usual	Television
The suffixes –ment, –ness, –ful, –less and –ly	<p>If a suffix starts with a consonant letter, it is added straight on to most root words without any change to the last letter of those words.</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <p>(1) <i>argument</i></p> <p>(2) root words ending in –y with a consonant before it but only if the root word has more than one syllable.</p>	<p>enjoyment, sadness, careful, playful, hopeless, plainness (plain + ness), badly</p> <p>merriment, happiness, plentiful, penniless, happily</p>	Recipe for a Teacher

Statutory Requirement	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)	Poem To Use
Contractions	In contractions, the apostrophe shows where a letter or letters would be if the words were written in full (e.g. <i>can't</i> – <i>cannot</i>). <i>It's</i> means <i>it is</i> (e.g. <i>It's</i> raining) or sometimes <i>it has</i> (e.g. <i>It's</i> been raining), but <i>it's</i> is never used for the possessive.	can't, didn't, hasn't, couldn't, it's, I'll	In Trouble
The possessive apostrophe (singular nouns)		Megan's, Ravi's, the girl's, the child's, the man's	The Wizard's Spell
Words ending in –tion		station, fiction, motion, national, section	Imagination
Homophones and near-homophones	It is important to know the difference in meaning between homophones.	there/their/they're, here/hear, quite/quiet, see/sea, bare/bear, one/won, sun/son, to/too/two, be/bee, blue/blew, night/knight	The Knight and the Bear in Bright Colours

Statutory Requirement	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)	Poem To Use
Common exception words	<p>Some words are exceptions in some accents but not in others – e.g. <i>past, last, fast, path</i> and <i>bath</i> are not exceptions in accents where the a in these words is pronounced as in <i>cat</i>.</p> <p><i>Great, break</i> and <i>steak</i> are the only common words where the sound is spelt ea. /æ/, /eɪ/</p>	<p>door, floor, poor, because, find, kind, mind, behind, child, children*, wild, climb, most, only, both, old, cold, gold, hold, told, every, everybody, even, great, break, steak, pretty, beautiful, after, fast, last, past, father, class, grass, pass, plant, path, bath, hour, move, prove, improve, sure, sugar, eye, could, should, would, who, whole, any, many, clothes, busy, people, water, again, half, money, Mr, Mrs, parents, Christmas – and/or others according to programme used.</p> <p>Note: 'children' is not an exception to what has been taught so far but is included because of its relationship with 'child'.</p>	Wall Floor Challenge

The Judge-Bridge Tongue-Twist!

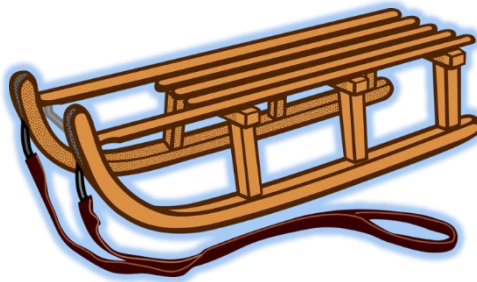
Close to the edge of a ledge,

On a bridge of fudge,



There's a judge on a sledge,

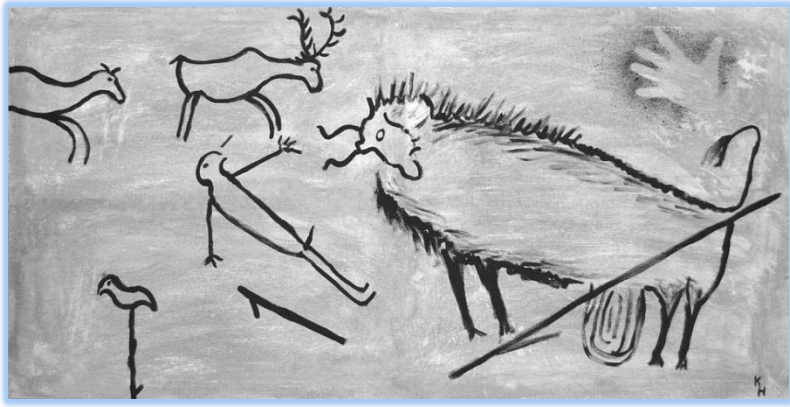
With a fridge of sludge!



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: The letter 'j' is never used for the 'j' sound at the end of English words. At the end of a word, the 'j' sound is spelt '-dge' straight after short vowel sounds like 'eh', 'ah' or 'uh'.

End of the Stone Age



Right at the end of the Stone Age,
One small village made a huge change,
They used a strange metal for a new blade,
And that was the beginning of the Bronze Age!



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: The 'j' sound at the end of a word is spelt '-ge' unless it comes after a short vowel sound like 'eh', 'ah' or 'uh'.

Geoff the Gentle Ginger Giraffe

Geoff the gentle ginger giraffe,
Found a magical, shiny gem,

Geoff the gentle ginger giraffe,
Wished for a giant, leafy stem,

Geoff the gentle ginger giraffe,
Ate the leaves up fast and quick,

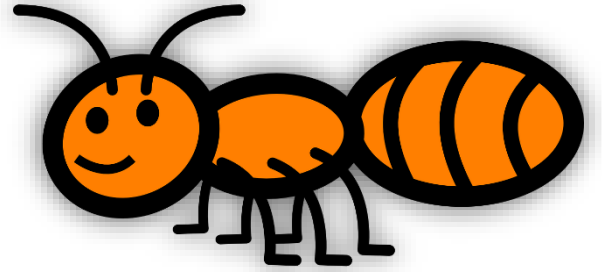
Geoff the gentle ginger giraffe,
Now feels totally, awfully sick!



*Top Tip: The sound 'j' like in 'jam' is often (but not always!)
spelt with a 'g' if it comes before 'e', 'i' and 'y'.*

Jack the Ant

Join Jack the ant,
For a jog in a jam jar,
He's eating up the jelly,
Because that's where the fruits are,



He's jumping over lumps,
Like an animal dance star,
He wears a jazzy jacket,
'Cos he's flash like a sports car!



by Michael Plews

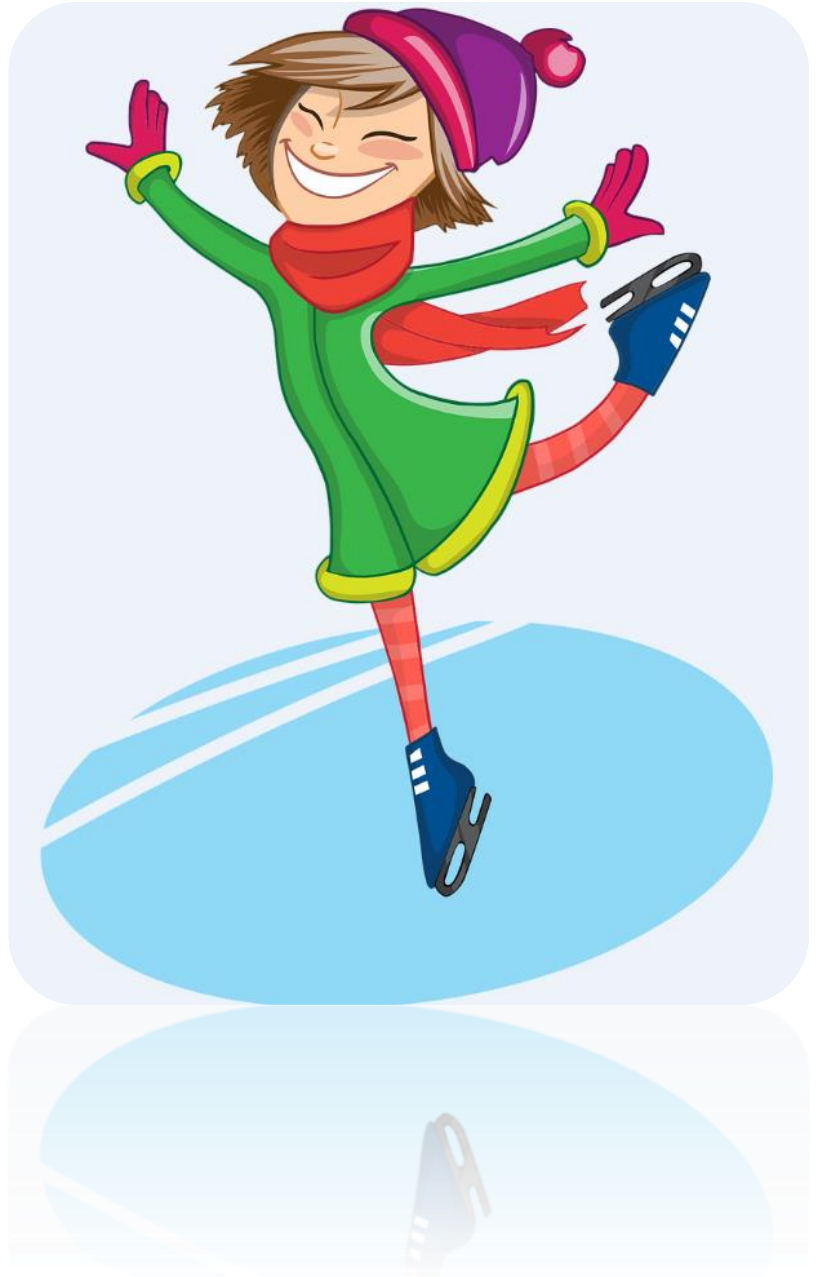
Top Tip: The 'j' sound like in 'jog' is always spelt as 'j' before 'a', 'o' and 'u'.

Ice Race

At the ice rink,
In the city,
Skating round,
So nice and pretty,

Feeling good,
I joined a race,
But I forgot,
To tie my lace,

I went so fast,
I left no trace,
But then I fell,
Flat on my face.

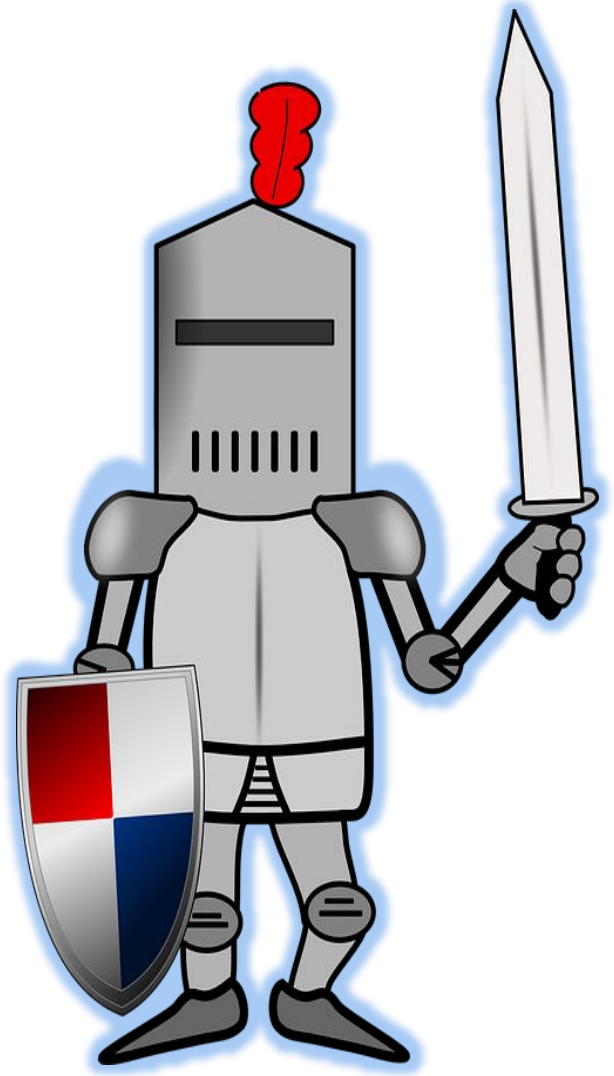


by Michael Plews

Top Tip: The 's' sound is spelt as 'c' before the letters 'e', 'i' and 'y'.

The Scaredest Knight

I'm the scaredest knight,
That you've ever seen,
Everybody knows me,
And my knobbly knees,
Knock knock! Who's there?
It's the scaredest knight,
With my grey knitted armour,
And a blunt toy knife!

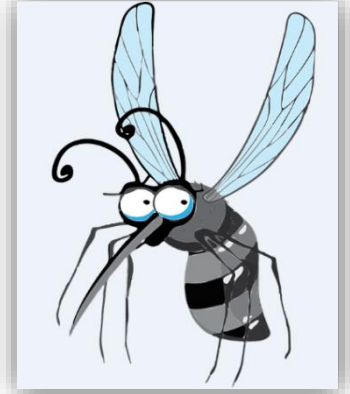


by Michael Plews

Top Tip: The 'n' sound is sometimes spelt 'kn' at the start of words, but we do not pronounce the 'k'.

Gnat and Gnome

A tiny gnat,



Gnaws on a gnome,

Who gnaws on a bone,

In his gnarly gnome home.



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: The 'n' sound is sometimes spelt 'gn' at the start of words, but we do not pronounce the 'g'.

Mistakes

I wrote this poem,

As I ~~whent~~ went along,

And it had ~~sum~~ some words,

That I'd written ~~rong~~ wrong,

Those misspelt words,

~~neerlee~~ Nearly wrecked my flow,

So I went back to the start,

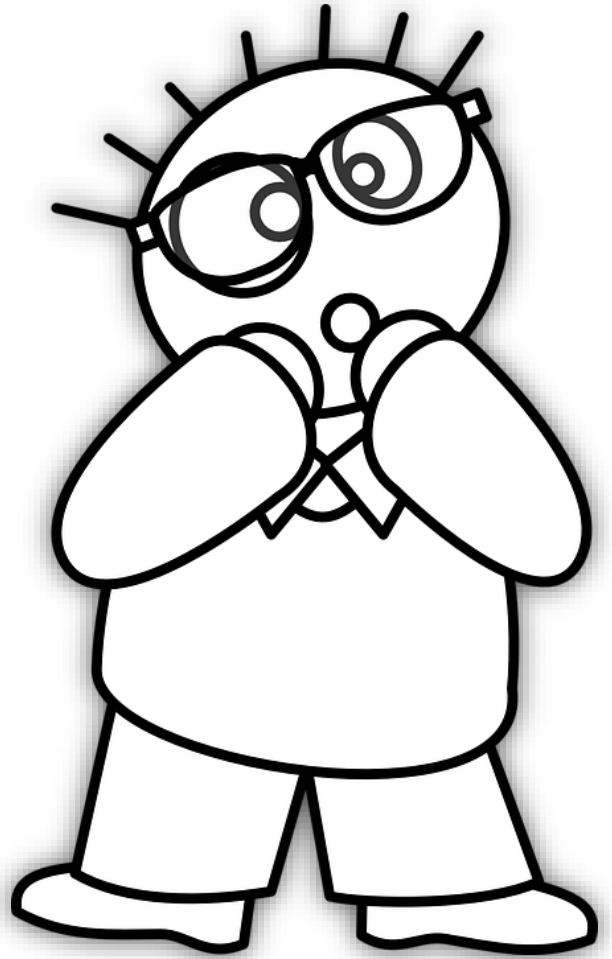
For a ~~sekund~~ second go,

I wriggled round my ~~wurds~~ words,

So they'd be understood,

And now all of my ~~ryting~~ writing here,

Is ~~reelee~~ really good.



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: The 'r' sound can sometimes be spelt 'wr' at the beginning of words, but we do not pronounce the 'w' when we say the word out loud.

Colin the Clown

Watch me juggle,

Juggle some apples,

Juggle some bottles and juggle some rattles,

Juggle a trifle,

Juggle a rifle,

Juggle a fiddle and two unicycles,

Juggle a saddle,

Tied to some cattle,

Juggle a castle and knights from a battle,

But *please* don't tickle me, even a little,

Else I'll start to giggle and wobble and – OOPSY!



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: The '-le' spelling is the most common spelling for the grunty 'ul' sound you can hear at the end of words like 'table' or 'middle'.

Derek the Squirrel

Derek the squirrel,
Wears a towel,
Wrapped around his legs,
And round at the back,
There's a secret panel,
That's stuffed with nuts, I'll bet,
You have to marvel,
At Derek the squirrel,
When you see him strolling by,
He goes with a camel,
Wherever he travels,
And its humps reach up to the sky!



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: The 'el' spelling is a much less common spelling for the grunty 'ul' sound you can hear at the end of words like 'table' or 'camel'.

Animal City

Shall we go to Animal City?

The capital of Animal Land?

Before your arrival in Animal City,

You should know that all humans are banned!

On a typical day,

They'll lock you away,

In a zoo made of metal and wood,

If you're unusually rude,

They won't give you food,

And for survival you'll have to eat bugs!



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: The grunty 'ul' sound you can hear at the end of words like 'table' or 'camel' or 'typical' can be spelt as '-al'. Not many nouns end in '-al', but many adjectives do.

Tiny Devil

Me is devil,

Me is evil,

Me take pencil,

Me take stencil,

Me draw picture,

On a gerbil!



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: The grunty 'ul' sound you can hear at the end of words like 'table' or 'camel' or 'typical' can also be spelt with '-il'. There are not many of these words.

Pete the Baby Pigeon

I started to cry,
'Cos I wanted to fly,
By July,
But my wings weren't yet strong,

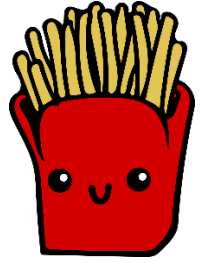
So I let my tears dry,
Then I started to try,
Now I can whizz round the sky,
For so long.



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: The 'i' sound like in 'time' is most commonly spelt with a 'y' at the end of words.

Dad's Fries

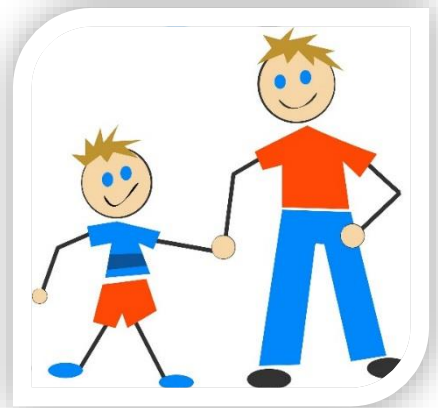


Dad decides that he'll cook French fries,

But then he worries that he'll have to share,

So he tries to lie, says he's cooked dead flies,

But his son replies "Yummy, I don't care!"



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: The 'y' is changed to 'i' before 'es' is added.

Santa Contest

The best Santa lookalike contest was always tough.

Santa Number One was jollier,

Santa Number Two was merrier,

Santa Number Three was funnier,

Santa Number Four was just sillier,

But then they saw Santa Number Five,

And the others just cried.



Because Santa Number Five was the funniest,

Silliest,

Merriest,

Cheeriest,

Jolliest Santa lookalike ever!

He copied the real Santa perfectly,

And even replied with a big "Ho ho ho!"

When they gave him his candy-cane trophy.



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: The 'y' is changed to 'i' before '-ed', '-er' and '-est' are added, but not before '-ing'.

Hiker Biker

The hiker hiked up the mountain,
Towards its icy peak,
And while he was hiking,
He wished he was biking,
Back down to his home so sweet.



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: The 'e' at the end of the root word (for example, 'bike') is dropped before 'ing', 'ed', 'er', 'est' or 'y' is added.

Runner Bunny

Runner bunny, running funny,
Humming sunny songs,
Patting pockets, lost his wallet,
Something has gone wrong!

Worried bunny, looks for money,
Dropped it on the floor?

Hurry bunny, bunny hurries,
Finds it by the door!



Top Tip: When adding suffixes, we sometimes have to double the last letter of the root word to keep the vowel sound short.

Best Friends

All day we walk and talk,
Always we talk and walk,

Play games in the school hall,
Pretend to make a phone call,
Talk about the football,
Go and climb the big wall,
Both of us are so tall,
Careful that we don't fall,



All day we walk and talk,
Always we talk and walk.



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: The 'or' sound is usually spelt as 'a' before 'l' or 'll'.

Lying Brother

I have a brother,
Like no other,
He says on Monday he went to the Moon.



I told my mother,
About my brother,
She says nothing he tells me is true.



I told my brother,
About our mother,
He told me nothing she says is a lie.



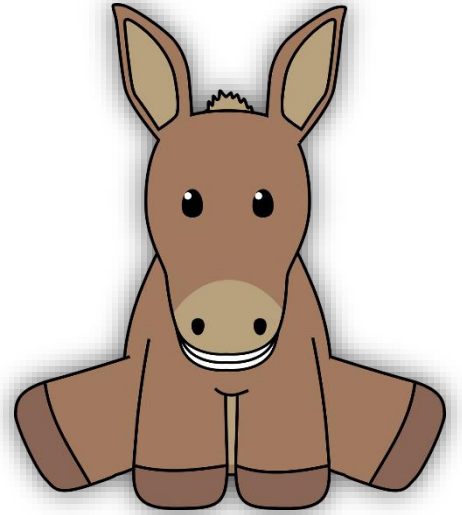
Which means my brother,
Isn't a liar,
Or at least not all of the time.

by Michael Plews

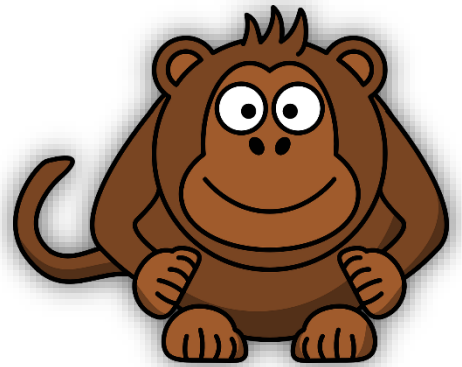
Top Tip: The 'uh' sound like in 'cut' can be spelt as 'o' in some words.

Donkey and Monkey

Poor old donkey,
Can't find his door key,
Walks through the valley,
Goes to see the monkey,



"Have you seen my door key?"
Donkey asks the monkey,
"Yes" says the monkey,
"I hid it up your chimney!"



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: The 'ee' sound like in 'bee' can be spelt as '-ey' at the end of words.

Pond Troll



A troll he went for a wander,
To the pond to have a good wash,
He dived in while I was swimming,
And so I was nearly squashed!



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: 'a' is the most common spelling for the short 'o' sound like in 'hot' when it comes after the letters 'w' and 'qu'.

Magic Word

There's a single word,
That always works,
It can bring the world to its knees,



A single word,
Of endless worth,
And that single word is please.



by Michael Plews

*Top Tip: The 'ur' sound can be spelt as 'or' in some words.
There are not many of these words.*

Yeti War

I must warn you of the swarm of yetis I saw,
As I looked out over the snow,
They were covered in fur and sprinkled with warts,
And their ice clubs dangled low,
They're looking for warmth and ready for war,
They growl and snarl and bite,
And it's your home they're heading towards,
They're hoping you'll give them a fight,
If you stop them you'll earn a big reward,
Including a golden cup,
And on it they'll write 'Brave Hero Award',
Unless you get eaten up!



by Michael Plews

*Top Tip: The sound 'or' like in 'for' can be spelt as '-ar'.
There are not many of these words.*

Television

Television is my treasure,
The thing I love the most,
I love it beyond measure,
I love it more than toast!



It gives me so much pleasure,
The shows I watch are cool,
I watch it at my leisure,
But not when I'm in school!



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: The 'zh' sound like in 'huge' or 'beige' can be spelt with an 's'.

Recipe for a Teacher

Four big bags of kindness.

Three heaped spoons of happiness.

A pinch of merriment.

A dash of strictness (not too much!).

A hefty dollop of playfulness.

Two generous handfuls of useless facts.

A powerful voice, slightly worn.

A plentiful supply of jokes (preferably awful).

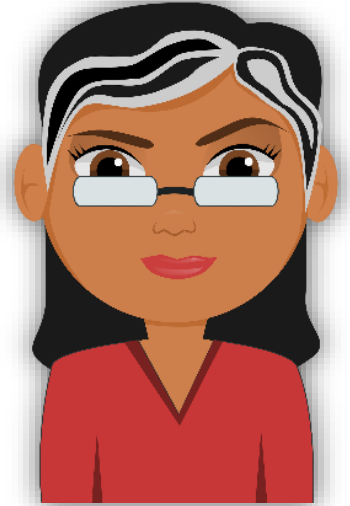
Two hundred incredibly long sighs.

Three spoonfuls of disbelieving stares.

A bag of kind words for when things look hopeless.

Three packs of tissues for sadness and sniffles.

Five thousand colourful pens to lose around school.



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: If a suffix starts with a consonant, it is usually added straight on to most root words without any change to the last letter of those words.

In Trouble

I didn't break that window,

I wouldn't ever dare,

I haven't ever told a lie,

It really isn't fair,

I wasn't even in the room,

I'm not the one, you see,

Sally Meekan saw it first,

You can't blame it on me,

I've always been so super good,

I'll always tell the truth,

I'm pretty sure it's Sally's fault,

She's hiding on the roof!



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: In contractions, the apostrophe shows where a letter or letters would be if the words were written in full.

The Wizard's Spell

The wizard's spell,
Mix it well.

A snake's fang,
A bear's claw,
An eagle's wing,
A lion's roar.

A rhino's strength,
A cheetah's speed,
An elephant's trunk,
A fat pig's greed.

A scorpion's tail,
A white wolf's fur,
A big shark's teeth,
A small cat's purr.

The wizard's spell,
Mix it well.



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: To show possession or belonging with a singular noun, we add an apostrophe plus the letter 's' to the end of the word.

Imagination

Are you in a sticky situation?

Then get your imagination into operation!

With a little ambition,

And bags of determination,

You'll find lots of options,

And after some careful elimination,

You'll be left with a brilliant solution!



by Michael Plews

Top Tip: At the end of a word the 'shun' sound is often spelt '-tion'.

The Knight and the Bear in Bright Colours

They're sat over there,

In their favourite chairs,



The knight and the bear in bright colours,

And although they're quite quiet,

It's here you can hear,



The jokes that they tell to each other.

by Michael Plews

Top Tip: Some words (called homophones) sound the same as each other when you say them out loud, but they can be spelt differently and have different meanings.

Wall Floor Challenge

Old Mr Water told every class,
Prove the wall is a floor if you want to pass,
So everybody got busy, everybody went fast,
Else this weird mission might be their last,

They only had one hour,
If they could do it there'd be gold,
Prove the wall is a floor,
Or they'd be out in the cold,



So the children got busy as they knew they should,
Started thinking up as many ideas as they could,
One wild child got hold of her father's clothes,
Even told her parents she had the problem solved,
Well she made a kind of rope and then she started to climb,
Walked on the wall like a floor because she had a great mind.

by Michael Plews

Top Tip: There are some words that don't follow normal spelling rules that you will need to learn!