



Mill Hill Community Primary School

Year 1 Spelling Rules These are alongside the teaching of phonics phases 3, 4 and 5	
Spelling rules	Example words
The sound that is usually spelt as tch if it comes straight after a single vowel letter.	catch, fetch, kitchen, notch, hutch Exceptions: rich, which, much, such.
The sound, at the end of words, spelt as y	very, happy, funny, party, family
The sound spelt as ph	dolphin, alphabet, phonics, elephant
The sound spelt as wh	when, where, which, wheel, while
The sound spelt as k rather than c before e, i and y	Kent, sketch, kit, skin, frisky
The 'v' sound at the end of words. English words hardly ever end with the letter v, so if a word ends with a 'v' sound, the letter e usually needs to be added after the v.	have, live, give
Plurals Adding -s and -es to words (plural of nouns and the third person singular of verbs) If the ending sounds like 's' or 'z', it is spelt as -s. If the ending sounds like 'is' and forms an extra syllable it is spelt as -es.	cats, dogs, spends, rocks, thanks catches, fishes, boxes
Suffixes Adding the endings -ing, -ed and -er to verbs where no change is needed to the root word If the verb ends in two consonant letters (the same or different), the ending is simply added on.	hunting, hunted, hunter buzzing, buzzed, buzzer jumping, jumped, jumper
Suffixes Adding -er and -est to adjectives where no change is needed to the root word If the adjective ends in two consonant letters (the same or different), the ending is simply added on.	grander, grandest fresher, freshest quicker, quickest
Prefix Adding un- to the beginning of a word without any change to the spelling of the root word.	unhappy, undo, unload, unfair, unlock
Compound words Two words joined together. Each part of the longer word is spelt as it would be if it were on its own.	football, playground, farmyard, bedroom, blackberry