

Structured Learning Program Guide Junior Spelling Bee

Weeks 1 & 2 – phonograms
Weeks 3 & 4 – basic, common prefixes
Weeks 5 & 6 – basic, common suffixes
Week 7 – preview of assimilation
Week 8 – basic Latin language tips
Week 9 – basic Greek language tips
Week 10 – basic Spanish language tips

Week 1: Phonograms pt. 1

The following information has been extracted from "The Riggs Institute" program. See their website at <http://www.riggsinst.org/Phonetics.aspx#orton>. Also please refer to the pronunciation guide of the Merriam Webster official dictionary source for the accurate pronunciations of all spelling words.

Introduction to Orton Phonograms:

Phonograms are letters or combinations of letters that stand for one sound in a given word. There are 71 phonograms in the English language. The purpose for teaching the sound/symbol relationships first is to give students, quickly, the information they need to spell and write, correctly, what they can already hear, say, and comprehend orally!

- Phonogram - Is a combination of phoneme and grapheme. When these phonograms are spoken, they are phonemes; when they are written, they are graphemes.
- Phoneme (sound) - An elementary sound of English speech.
- "Elementary" Sound - One that cannot be further divided (these are never blends such as str, bl, or nd which simply combine two or more elementary sounds).
- Grapheme (letter/s) - A written symbol (letter or letters) which represents a phoneme on paper, i.e., the phoneme /oo/ is commonly written with food, do, dew, due, fruit, through, yo, shoe, neutral, two, lieu, view graphemes

Pronounce each of the words in parentheses to learn which sounds each phonogram makes.

CONSONANTS

b (bat)	k (keg)	s (sit, days)
c (cat, cent)	l (lid)	t (top)
d (dog)	m (mop)	v (vase)
f (fed)	n (no)	w (wag)
g (got, gentle)	p (put)	x (box)
h (hot)	qu (quit)	y (yet)
j (jog)	r (run)	z (zip)

VOWELS

- a** (at, ate, want /ah/, talk /aw/)
- e** (end, we)
- i** (it, silent, radio)
- o** (dot /ah/, open, do, cost /aw/)
- u** (up, music, blue, put)
- y** (myth, my, baby)

Week 2: Phonograms pt. 2

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Pronounce each of the words in parentheses to learn which sounds each phonogram makes.

er (her)

ur (nurse)

ir (first)

or (works)

ear (early)

oa (boat)

oe (toe)

[used at the end of words]

ay (pay)

oy (boy)

aw (law)

ew (grew, few)

ey (they, key)

[not used at the end of words]

ai (paid)

oi (boil)

au (fault)

eu (neutral, feud)

ei (veil, receive)

sh – used at the beginning of a word (**shut**) or at the end of a syllable (**push**)

[used to spell "sh" or "zh" (session, equation) at the beginning of any syllable after the first one]

ti (nation)

si (session, vision)

ci (special)

[used after a single vowel which says the short sound of a, e, i, o, u.]

ck (neck) – 2-letter /k/

dge (badge) – 3-letter /j/

tch (catch) – 3-letter /ch/

[2-letter "n" combinations]

kn (knee) – used to begin a word

gn (reign, gnaw) – used to begin & end a word

ee (feel) – double ‘e’ says /EE/

igh (high) – 3-letter /EYE/

eigh (eight) – 4-letter /AY/

wr (write) – 2-letter /r/

ph (phone) – 2-letter /f/

ow (now, low)
ou (out, four, you, country)
ch (chin, school, chef)
ng (ring)
ea (eat, head, break)
wh (when)
ed (started, loved, missed)
ie (field, pie)
ar (far)
oo (boot, foot, floor)
ui (fruit, guide, build)
or (for)
th (think, this)
ough (though, through, rough, cough, thought, bough)

Week 3: Common Prefixes pt. 1

pre- = earlier than, before		
prehistory preserve prescription	preengagement prelude prematurely	precipitate
inter- = between, among		
interlinear interact	interdisciplinary intersect	interpersonal
re- = again		
replacements respire reservist repeated recant	respell reactant reprisal referendum refuge	revelation refugee reverberate rebellion
per- = throughout, thoroughly		
perchance permit	peruse percolate	perceive
be- = on, around; about; to make, cause to be		
belay	beletter	behoove
uni- = one		
unicorn	unilateral	unicycle
bi- = two		
bisect	bilateral	bicycle
di- = two		
diatomic	dihedral	dioxide
pro- = forward; earlier than, before; supporting		
propulsion product	profane program	prothorax
anti- = against, opposite to something		
antibiotic	anticlimax	antibacterial

CHALLENGE: Discover new words in the dictionary that contain these prefixes.

Week 4: English Prefixes pt. 2

ab- = from, away

absorb

abdomen

abrade

com-, con- = with, together

compromise

convention

conversion

compound

confess

convulsion

complaint

constrict

connote

companion

confrontation

contamination

contract

confection

convoy

de- = do the opposite of; remove; reduce

devotions

detachment

devastation

defer

debark

defensor

destroyer

deprogram

decompose

deployment

defectoscope

declaim

destructible

ad- = to, toward

adorned

adversity

adjacent

administer

adjournment

in- = not; in, toward **

infinity

infinite

incumbency

infrequently

incapable

incognito

invention

infidel

inanimate

incriminate

invertebrate

sub- = under, below

subshell

subversion

subsequent

dis- = do the opposite of, not

dislocated

disapprove

disagreeable

disease

disdain

dia- = through, across

diamagnetic

diatomic

diagnosis

diabetic

mis- = badly; wrong; not

mishit

missorted

misspeak

misuse

misstatement

misfortune

misanthropy

ex- = out of, outside; not; former

expire

explosion

exclave

Week 5: English Suffixes pt. 1

SUFFIXES = a letter or a group of letters that is added to the end of a word to change its meaning or to form a different word

-s = noun plural

Ex. 1: nostril + s = nostrils

Ex. 2: ninety + s = nineties

shingles

hailstones

nineties

leftovers

tiers

nostrils

piers

-ed = past tense

Ex. 1: repeat + ed = repeated

Ex. 2: pierce + ed = pierced

Ex. 3: frog + ed = frogged

Ex. 4: fry + ed = fried

arcaded

embattled

harassed

shorthanded

attuned

surrendered

adorned

frogged

fried

pierced

missorted

polluted

repeated

dislocated

echoed

truffled

deadened

-ing

Ex. 1: drill + ing = drilling

Ex. 2: grumble + ing = grumbling

fasting

evildoing

icing

logrolling

mudslinging

housing

steaming

grumbling

tooling

riding

standing

pipng

drilling

footing

minesweeping

trimming

dwelling

squandering

-ic = adjective forming suffix

cubic

boric

aromatic

biotic

organic

polarimetric

diabetic

exotic

diamagnetic

gastric

telepathic

orthodontic

diatomic

dynamic

photic

-ize = to cause to become (verb forming suffix)

mobilize

legalize

pasteurize

notarize

pulverize

neutralize

mineralize

-ist = a person who does a specified action or activity (noun forming suffix)

centrist

reservist

climatologist

-al = relating to or characterized by (adjective forming suffix)

critical
topical
oral
annual
several

facial
naval
mutual
vital
dental

toploftical
radical
mercurial
jovial
imperial

-ism = the act, practice, or process of doing something (noun forming suffix)

terrorism
nationalism

naturalism
optimism

journalism
pacifism

-ish = characteristic of, somewhat (adjective forming suffix)

brackish

purplish

earlyish

-y = full of or resembling something

healthy

worthy

savory

Week 6: English Suffixes pt. 2

-ment = the action/process of doing something OR the result of an action (noun forming)

establishment
deployment
detachment

misstatement
preengagement
adjournment

derailment

-ness = state, condition, or quality (noun forming suffix)

greenness
brotherliness
darkness

rootedness
doneness
ugliness

grotesqueness

-less = without something (adjective forming suffix)

endless

reckless

-ly = in a specified manner or period of time (adverb forming suffix)*

infrequently
knowingly
handily

immediately
impatiently
prematurely

untimely

-ful = full of or characterized by (adjective forming suffix)

hatful
plentiful

faithful

wasteful

-ate = cause to be modified or affected by OR furnish with (verb forming suffix)*

pulsate
alleviate
hydrate
marinate
ventilate

accommodate
germinate
precipitate
percolate
meditate

circulate
debate
celebrate
reverberate
generate

-ion = act or process OR state or condition (noun forming suffix)

Ex. 1: invent + ion = invention ... see confection, prescription, etc.

Ex. 2: fixate + ion = fixation ... see devastation, contamination, etc.

Ex. 3: divide + ion = division ... see collision, explosion, etc.

Ex. 4: televise + ion = television ... see convulsion, propulsion, etc.

convention
division
mission
invention
fixation
animation
television
confrontation

propulsion
confection
operation
prescription
nonintervention
ammunition
conversion
convulsion

subversion
fortification
devastation
explosion
lamentation
contamination
revelation
collision

-ous = full of OR having the quality of (adjective forming suffix)

studious
notorious

pompous
nervous

mucous
ridiculous

enormous
impetuous

hazardous
omnivorous

-ity = quality, state, or degree (noun forming suffix)

infinity
futuraity
density

summability
adversity
fatality

salinity
majority
oceanity

-ar = of or relating to (adjective forming suffix)

vascular
interlinear

cellular
singular

nonnuclear

CHALLENGE: See what other common suffixes you can find in the word list.
(Hint: -able, -er, -est are just a few)

Week 7: Assimilation

Assimilation is the influence of a sound on a neighboring sound so that the two become similar or the same. For example, the Latin prefix “*in-*” appears in English as *il-*, *im-*, and *ir-* in the words *illegal*, *immoral*, *impossible*, and *irresponsible* as well as the unassimilated original form *in-* in *indecent* and *incompetent*.

Here is a brief introduction to the common assimilations you will encounter with English prefixes in spelling words:

prefix **in-** = not; in, toward → **im-**

Ex: in + move + able = immovable

immediately
improve

impatiently
implode

impulse
immovable

prefix **in-** = not; in, toward → **il-**

Ex: in + legal = illegal

illiteracy

illegal

illogical

prefix **con-**, **com-** = with, together → **col-**

Ex: con/com + labor + ate = collaborate

collapse
collision

collateral
collaborate

colleague

prefix **en-** = put into, cause to be, provide with → **em-**

Ex: en + battle + ed = embattled

embattled

embolden

empathetic

prefix **ad-** = to, toward → **al-**, **ap-**, **am-**, **ac-**, **at-**

Ex 1: ad + point = appoint

Ex 2: ad + tune + ed = attuned

alleviate
accommodate

appoint
ammunition

attuned
acceptance

Week 8: Preview of Latin

Latin Language Patterns and Tips

“f” is used in Latin for the /f/ sound (NOT “ph”)

fringe	foil	fatality
fluoride	infrequently	benefit
infinity	filmscript	referendum
finery	inferior	flamingo
fiddlehead	defer	profane
flora	confection	portfolio
infantry	curfew	

“c” represents the /k/ sound (NOT “k”)

compromise	compound	anticlimax
catch	declaim	cortex
product	recant	percolate
coppernose	dislocated	incumbency
contract	reactant	capitol
unicorn	radical	recto
convention	companion	ventricle
sect	modicum	
constrict	retrospective	

“c” can have a soft sound representing /s/ sound before “e”, “i”, and “y”

replacements	ace	adjacent
fiercest	cancel	civics
perchance	decent	celebrate
facial	precipitate	
bracelet	circulate	

“g” can have a soft sound representing /g/ sound “e”, “i”, and “y”

general	gentry	argentine
fringe	preengagement	generate
gentle	germinate	
regency	refuge	

“i” is a very common connecting vowel and used frequently for the schwa sound

gravimetric	nominee	meditate
polarimetric	marinate	herbivore
animation	ventilate	sacrifice
administer	infidel	omnilegent
omnipotent	ordinary	inanimate
auditorium	plentiful	
obstinate	omnivorous	

“-tion” for /shUHn/ sound, “-sion” for /zhUHn/ sound

devotions	operation	subversion
mention	nonintervention	explosion
division	conversion	lamentation
invention	convulsion	

double letters can be common

confess	truffled	oppress
mission	attuned	connote
bulletin	litter	narrative
approve	gullet	accommodate
access	respell	collapse
appoint	posttest	missile
alleviate	volley	acceptance
drilling	immediately	polluted
subshell	corrupt	illiteracy
cellular	disapprove	rebellion
college	anniversary	collision
missive	offensive	

“tu” represents the /ch/ sound, usually preceding a “u”

mutual	rupture	prematurely
ritual	impetuous	

“sc” can also represent the /s/ sound

scent	muscle	discipline
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“s” can represent the /zh/ sound when surrounded by two vowels

measure	season
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“u” is very common; always used to spell /OO/ and /yOO/ sound

June	pupil	peruse
lunatic	bugle	petunia
menu	articulate	prelude
vascular	mural	capsule
studious	mucous	turbulence
granule	duple	unique
formula	ridiculous	refugee
cellular	jurisprudence	duplex
singular	mercurial	dilute

Week 9: Preview of Greek

Greek Language Patterns and Tips

“y” is very common

tyrant	strategy	dynamic
hydrate	catalytic	hydra
canopy	apology	trilogy

“o” is the common connecting vowel and used frequently for the schwa sound

zoology	exotic	plutology
stoma	heroine	benthograph
biotic	isobath	acronym
exobiology	hydroperiod	biopsy
hormone	hippopotamus	climatologist
microwave	defectoscope (first part comes from Latin, that’s why it is “f”, not “ph”)	
cosmos		
deprogram		

“ch” for the /k/ sound

school	orchestra	character
scholar	arachnid	
schedule	echoed	

“ph” for the /f/ sound

videography	photic	apostrophe
phase	prophet	
demography	benthograph	

“th” is common

orthodontic	isobath	misanthropy
mathematics	thermal	benthograph
enthusiasm	theology	

many words are formed from two root words

antibiotic	deprogram	diagnosis
videography	epidemic	agnostic
diamagnetic	telepathic	quadricycle (first part is Latin, that’s why “i” is connecting vowel, not “o”)
orthodontic	polygon	
diabetic	isobath	
television	catalytic	
diatomic	hippopotamus	

Week 10: Preview of Spanish

Spanish Language Patterns and Tips

Because Spanish is a Romance language that comes from Latin, it follows basic Latin rules (like the ones regarding the use of “c” and “f”).

fiesta

cafeteria

flamingo

“e” is used to spell the /ay/ sound

mesa

jalapeño

señorita

quesadilla

“i” represents the /ee/ sound

señorita

hacienda

****rodeo is an exception!

“o” is a common ending, for the /oh/ sound

desperado

tomato

flamingo

nacho

rodeo

tornado

pronto

“j” is used for the /h/ sound

jalapeño

junta

the double l (“ll”) is common in Spanish, especially for representing the /y/ sound

quesadilla

tortilla

****vanilla is an exception as it travels through Latin after Spanish before becoming an English word

“qu” is a way to spell the /k/ sound

quesadilla

conquistador

quebrada

“n” for the /ny/ sound

señorita

piñata

jalapeño

“a” is used to spell the schwa at the end

mesa

fiesta

vanilla

señorita

plaza

cafeteria