
Fancy Spellings of the Sound "K"

"K" is spelled **QU** if the word comes from the French, Spanish or Portugese..... PP. 901-904
Examples: uni**que** bouti**que** **qu**iche

"K" is spelled **CH** if the word comes from the Greek PP. 905-908
Examples: me**ch**anical **ch**aos **Ch**ristianity

Fancy Spellings of the Sound "SH"

"SH" is spelled **CH** if the word comes from the French, Spanish, or Portugese PP. 909-910
Examples: **ch**ef **ch**auffeur **ch**ic **ch**iffon **Ch**evrolet **qu**iche

"SH" is spelled **SCH** if the word comes from the German or Yiddish.....P. 911
Examples: **Sch**midt **sch**maltz **sch**lemiel

"SH" is spelled **CI** when combining with normal suffixes

Examples:	ci	+ al	=	cial	spe ci al	912 & 818
	ci	+ on	=	cion	suspi ci on	912
	ci	+ ent	=	cient	suffi ci ent	P.912
	ci	+ a	=	cia	Mar ci a	P. 912
	ci	+ an	=	cian	techni ci an	P. 912
	ci	+ ous	=	cious	suspi ci ous	P. 913

"SH" is spelled **TI** when combining with normal suffixes

Examples:	ti	+ al	=	tial	parti ti al	PP. 914 & 825
	ti	+ on	=	tion	nati ti on	PP. 838-851
	ti	+ ent	=	tient	pati ti ent	P. 914
	ti	+ a	=	tia	inerti ti a	P. 914
	ti	+ an	=	tian	Marti ti an	P. 914
	ti	+ ous	=	tious	cauti ti ous	P. 914

"SH" is spelled **SSI** when combining with some suffixes

Examples:	ssi	+ on	=	ssion	mi ssi on	P. 916
	sci	+ ent	=	scient	omni sci ent	P. 916
	ssi	+ a	=	ssia	Ru ssi a.....	P. 916
	ssi	+ an	=	ssian	Ru ssi an.....	P. 916

"SH" is spelled **SI** when combining with on in special cases.

Example:	si	+ on	=	ssion	pen si on	P. 916
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"SH" is spelled **XI** when combining with ous in a special case

Example:	xi	+ ous	=	xious	an xi ous	P. 917
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"SH" is spelled **SS** when combining with -ure & ue

Examples:	ss	+ ure	=	ssure	pre ss ure.....	P. 915
	ss	+ ue	=	ssue	i ss ue.....	P. 915

"ZH" is spelled **SI** when combining with some normal suffixes

Examples	si	+ a	=	sia	Asia	P. 917
	si	+ an	=	sian	Persian	P. 917
	si	+ on	=	sion	explosion	P. 918

"ZH" is spelled **S** when combining with -ure

Example:	s	+ ure	=	ure	exposure	P. 919
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"ZH" is spelled **GE** when it is part of some -age suffixes

Example:		age		sabotage	P. 919
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"J" is spelled **GE** when combining with normal suffixes

Examples:	ge	+ ous	=	geous	gorgeous	P. 920
	ge	+ on	=	geon	surgeon	P. 920
	ge	+ ant	=	geant	pageant	P. 920
	ge	+ ance	=	geance	vengeance	P. 920

"J" is spelled **GI** when combining with some suffixes

Examples:	gi	+ ous	=	gious	religigious	P. 920
	gi	+ on	=	gion	regigion	P. 920

"G" is spelled **GU** in the initial and ending positions that must have the **HARD "GUH"** sound

Examples:	g uard	leaguge	tonguge	roguge	Guernsey	PP. 921-922
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"CH" is spelled **T** when combining with the letter **U** in simple suffixes

Examples:	t	+ ue	=	tue	statute	P. 923
	t	+ ure	=	ture	naturte	P. 923
	t	+ une	=	tune	fortute	P. 924

"CH" is spelled **TE** when combining with -ous

Example:	te	+ ous	=	teous	rightteous	P.924
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"CH" is spelled **TI** when combining with **-an** or **-on** (when preceded by an **s-**.)

Example:	s + ti + an	=	stian	Christitian	P. 924
	s + ti + on	=	stion	questition	P. 851

"F" is spelled **PH** in Initial, Medial, & Final positions

Examples:	ph one	elephant	telephograph	P. 925-934
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The Identical Twins that play the Switchie-Switchie Game

The *I* & *Y* Twins & the *U* & *W* Twins

"**Y**" is spelled **I** when combining with normal suffixes..... PP. 935-936

Examples:	i + on	=	ion ("YUN")	as in opin i on
	i + en	=	ien ("YUN")	as in len i ent
	i + an	=	ian ("YUN")	as in Ital i an
	i + ant	=	iant ("YUNT")	as in brill i ant
	i + us	=	ius ("YUS")	as in gen i us
	i + or	=	ior ("YUR")	as in sav i or
	i + our	=	iour ("YUR")	as in sav i our
	i + ar=		iar ("YUR")	as in pecu i ar
	i + ew	=	iew ("YOO")	as in rev i ew
	i + a	=	ia ("YUH")	as in am i onia

"**W**" is spelled **U** when combining with normal suffixes.....P. 937

Examples:	u + ade	=	uade ("WAYD")	as in pers u ade
	u + ave	=	uave ("WAHV")	as in s u ave
	u + ite	=	uite ("WEET")	as in s u ite
	u + i =		ui ("WEE")	as in enn u i
	u + age	=	uage ("WIJ")	as in lang u age
	u + am	=	uam ("WAHM")	as in Gu am
	u + ist	=	uist ("WIST")	as in ling u ist
	u + al	=	ual ("WUHL")	as in ling u al
	u + ish	=	uish ("WISH")	as in disting u ish

"**W**" is spelled **U** in simple words using the QU for the "KW" soundP. 937

"**WAH**" is spelled **OI** in words coming from the FrenchP. 938

Examples:	moi	=	"MWAH"
	reserv oir	=	"REZ zurv WAHR"

LONG A is spelled **E** in words from the French, Spanish, & Portugese P. 939-940

Examples:	Suffix é	=	"AY"	as in fianc é
	Suffix ée	=	"AY"	as in fianc ée
	Prefix de	=	"day"	as in de but
	Suffix ez	=	"AY"	as in rend ez vous
	Suffix es	=	"AY"	as in apr es
	Suffix et	=	"AY"	as in buff et
	Prefix pre	=	"PRAY"	as in pr e lude

<p>The most common spelling of "AYR" is NOT -air as in fair, NOT -are as in care, but it is -ER as in cherry, America, Cherokee, clerical, and terror. PP. 939-940</p>
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The **Long E** sound is spelled **i** in common suffixes from foreign languages.....PP. 946-948

Examples: Suffix	i	=	"EE"	as in macaron i
	is	=	"EE"	as in debris s
	it	=	"EE"	as in espr i t
	ique	=	"EEK"	as in techn ique
	ite	=	"EET"	as in pet ite
	igue	=	"EEG"	as in fat igue
	ige	=	"EEZH"	as in prest ige
	ita	=	"EE tuh"	as in Rit a
	isa	=	"EE suh"	as in Vis a
	ina	=	"EE nuh"	as in Nin a
	if	=	"EEF"	as in mot if
	ie	=	"EE"	as in Ann ie
	ia	=	"EE uh"	as in Mari a
	iac	=	"ee AK"	as in mani iac

The **Long E** sound is spelled **i** in words from most foreign languages PP. 946-948

Examples: p**i**nochle fian**ce**e ch**i**c Pier**re** ad**i**os cli**ch**e pi**z**za

The **Long O** sound is spelled **AU**, **EAU**, or **OT** in words from the FrenchP. 949

Examples: cha**u**ffeur ga**u**che be**au** bure**au** dep**o**t pot**o**pourri

The **Long OO** sound is spelled **OU** in words from the French PP. 950-952

Examples: sou**p** cou**o**pon g**o**urmet rou**o**ge rou**o**tine tou**o** youth

The **Short UH** sound is often spelled **OU** in polysyllabic words.....P. 952

Examples: cou**o**rage, cou**o**sins, dou**o**ble, trou**o**ble, you**o**ngsters, cou**o**rtesy

The **Long OO** sound that is spelled **UT** as in deb**u**t.....P. 952

The **Long OO** sound that is spelled **EU** as in sle**u**th and neu**u**tral.....P. 957

The **"AH"** sound that is spelled **E** as in en**e**core and en routeP. 957

The **Short I** sound that is spelled **Y** as in g**y**m, d**y**slexia, and ph**y**sical PP. 953-956

The **Long I** sound that is spelled **Y** as in c**y**cle, analy**y**ze, ps**y**chopath, d**y**namiteP. 961

The **Silent B** as in lam**b** comb**b** dumb**b** and clim**b**P. 958

The **Silent W** as in s**w**ord w**r**ap w**h**ole w**r**ongP. 958

The **Silent G** as in g**g**nat sig**gn** desi**gn** forei**gn**.....P. 959

The **Silent K** as in k**kn**ow k**kn**owledge k**kn**ife k**kn**it.....P. 959

The **Silent H** as in gh**h**ost spagh**h**etti sil**h**ouetteP. 960

The **Silent L** as in palm calm qualms psalms P. 960

The **Silent M** as in m**m**ne**m**onics, The **Silent N** as in condem**n**P. 960

The **Silent P** as in p**p**neumonia ptomaine p**p**seudoP. 961

The **Silent S** as in debris; The **Silent T** as in balletP. 962

Helpful Hints in Determining Whether or Not a "Fancy" Spelling is Required

"Simple" Spellings

Words whose **BASE** is **one** syllable generally use **simple** spellings for sounds such as /sh/

ship **ship**ment
fish **fish**erman **fish**ery

"Simple" /k/

cap **cap**ping **recap**ped
skill **skill**ful **unskill**ed
weak **weak**nesses **week** **week**ly
nick **nick**ing

"Simple" /AY'r/

fair **unfair**ly
care **care**fully

"Simple" /AY/

play **play**fulness
paid **unrepaid**
grade **ungraded**

"Fancy" Spelling

Words whose **BASE** is **more than one** syllable generally have **fancy** spellings for sounds such as /sh/

pre**ci**ous (ci=sh; ous=us)
ini**ti**al (ti=sh; al=ul) not
mi**ssi**on (ssi=sh; on=un)

"Fancy" /k/

te**ch**nique (ch=k; qu=k)
chaos (ch=k)
me**ch**anic (ch=k; c=ck)
li**qu**or (qu=k; or=ur)

"Fancy" /AY'r/

the**ra**py (er=AYr)
che**ri**sh (er=AYr)

"Fancy" /AY/

balle**t** (et=ay)
resu**m**é (e=ay)
rende**z**vous (en=on; ez=ay; vous=voo)

A Few Observations

If it is true as the experts¹ tell us that phonics need only be taught in the first two grades, then third graders should have no trouble with the words that end -cial or -tial as in *special* and *essential*. Yet, only 5% could correctly spell *special*. And only 2% could correctly spell *essential*. Obviously, something is wrong. And if it is true that students don't spell as well today as the students did when the *New Iowa Spelling Scale*² was written, something is seriously wrong with our spelling curriculum or how spelling is—or is not—taught. Mostly, is not. As nearly every spelling program is based upon the same word frequency studies as the *New Iowa Spelling Scale* we can estimate quite accurately the number of ending -cial or tial (such as *crucial*, *specialties*, and *essentials*) that occur in traditional spelling texts from grades 2 through 8. Of the over 116 possible, only 11 of these words regularly occur.

¹Anderson, Richard C., Elfrieda H. Heibert, et. al. *Becoming a Nation of Readers: The Report of the Commission on Reading*. Washington, D.C., The National Institute of Education, U.S. Department of Education.

²Greene, Harry. *The New Iowa Spelling Scale*. Iowa City: The University of Iowa, 1954.