

Year 4 Spellings – Term 5 Group 1 **Group 2**

‘Look, say, cover, write, check’ method

				
Look	Say	Cover	Write	Check

To be tested...

Week 1 ‘Words with the ‘s’ sound spelt ‘sc’	Week 2 Endings that sound like ‘sion’	Week 3 Apostrophes for possession, singular and plural	Week 4 Homophones	Week 5 Statutory word list
science	divide	men’s	whether	PAST TENSE A mixture of words taken from the Year 3 and 4 statutory word list will be turned into past tense (i.e. <i>interest</i> will become <i>interested</i>)
abscess	collide	women’s	weather	
ascend	explode	girls’	who’s	
descend	corrode	girl’s	whose	
scene	tense	cat’s	medal	
scissors	extend	cats’	meddle	
scented	comprehend	Thomas’s	missed	
crescent	invade	grandmother’s	mist	
fascinate	intrude	player’s	team	
discipline	conclude	players’	teem	
muscle	expand	bus’s	to / too	
isosceles	decide	parents’	two	
scent	corrode	week’s	sent	
scenario	suspend	weeks’	scent	

In addition to practising weekly spellings we ask children to write a set of sentences that use the words correctly. We ask that children do this in their neatest handwriting and push themselves to use more complex sentences.

Possessives

An apostrophe is used in a possessive form, like *Esther's family* or *Janet's cigarettes*, and this is the use of the apostrophe which causes most of the trouble. The basic rule is simple enough: a possessive form is spelled with 's at the end. Hence:

Lisa's essay
England's navy
my brother's girlfriend
Wittgenstein's last book
children's shoes
women's clothing
the aircraft's black box
somebody's umbrella
a week's work
my money's worth

This rule applies in most cases even with a name ending in s:

Thomas's job
the bus's arrival
James's fiancée
Steve Davis's victory

There are three types of exception. First, a plural noun which already ends in s takes only a following apostrophe:

the girls' excitement
my parents' wedding
both players' injuries
the Klingons' attack
the ladies' room
two weeks' work

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This is reasonable. We don't pronounce these words with two esses, and so we don't write two esses: nobody says **the girls's excitement*. But note that plurals that don't end in *s* take the ordinary form: see the cases of *children* and *women* above.

Second, a name ending in *s* takes only an apostrophe if the possessive form is not pronounced with an extra *s*. Hence:

Socrates' philosophy
Saint Saens' music
Ulysses' companions
Aristophanes' plays

Same reason: we don't say **Ulysses's companions*, and so we don't write the extra *s*.

The final class of exceptions is pronouns. Note the following:

He lost his book.
Which seats are ours?
The bull lowered its head.
Whose are these spectacles?

Note in particular the spelling of possessive *its*. This word never takes an apostrophe:

**The bull lowered it's head.*

This is **wrong, wrong, wrong** — but it is one of the commonest of all punctuation errors.

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