Word list - years 3 and 4

accident(ally) knowledge early purpose actual(ly) earth learn quarter address eight/eighth length question recent answer enough library exercise material regular appear medicine arrive experience reign believe experiment mention remember bicycle extreme minute sentence breath famous natural separate breathe favourite naughty special build February notice straight busy/business forward(s) occasion(ally) strange calendar fruit often strength opposite caught grammar suppose centre group ordinary surprise century particular therefore guard certain guide peculiar though/although circle heard perhaps thought complete heart popular through consider height position various weight continue history possess(ion) decide imagine possible woman/women describe increase potatoes different important pressure difficult interest probably island disappear promise

Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Teachers should continue to emphasise to pupils the relationships between sounds and letters, even when the relationships are unusual. Once root words are learnt in this way, longer words can be spelt correctly, if the rules and guidance for adding prefixes and suffixes are also known.

Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Examples:

business: once busy is learnt, with due attention to the unusual spelling of the /i/ sound as 'u', business can then be spelt as **busy + ness**, with the **y** of **busy** changed to **i** according to the rule.

disappear: the root word appear contains sounds which can be spelt in more than one way so it needs to be learnt, but the prefix **dis-** is then simply added to **appear**.

Understanding the relationships between words can also help with spelling. Examples:

- bicycle is cycle (from the Greek for wheel) with bi- (meaning 'two') before it.
- medicine is related to medical so the /s/ sound is spelt as c.
- opposite is related to oppose, so the schwa sound in opposite is spelt as o.