JUNIOR CYCLE ENGLISH · FREE REVISION SHEET

Spelling and commonly confused words

↗ Léim

Learning outcomes (2015 specification): W11, R10. Play the game: **leim.ie/spell-strike.html**

1. Adding endings

Double it	short vowel + one consonant, ending starts with a vowel: hop → hopping, stop → stopped, big → biggest. Two syllables, stress at the end: begin → beginning. (Not w, x, y: snowing, fixing.)
Drop the e	before a vowel ending: hope → hoping, make → making. Keep it before a consonant: careful, lovely.
y → i	consonant + y: happy → happiness, carry → carried. Keep the y before -ing (crying) and after a vowel (played).

hopping = jumping · **hoping** = wishing. One letter, a different word.

2. Plurals

+ s	most words, vowel + y: days, keys, photos, pianos
+ es	after s, x, ch, sh: buses, boxes, churches, wishes · and potatoes, tomatoes, heroes
y → ies	consonant + y: babies, cities, parties
f → ves	knives, leaves, wolves, loaves, shelves
learn	children, mice, teeth, feet, women, geese, sheep

Never an apostrophe for a plural: ~~potato's~~ → potatoes.

3. Memory tricks

i before e, except after c: believe, friend, receive (weird is weird) · hidden words: de**finite**ly, sep**a rat**e, envi**ron**ment · silent letters: **k**nife, i**s**land, ans**w**er, We**d**nesday · doubles: ne**ces**sary, e**mbarrass**ed, a**dd**re**ss**, to**m**or**r**ow

4. Commonly confused words

there / their / they're	over there · their boots · they're = they are
your / you're	your phone · you're = you are
to / too / two	go to school · too hot, me too · two sisters
could have	could have, should have, must have (never "could of")
where / were / wear	where is it? · we were late · wear a coat
than / then	taller than me · and then we left
quiet / quite	be quiet · quite hard
lose / loose	lose the match · a loose tooth
accept / except	accept a gift · everyone except me
affect / effect	rain affects the match (verb) · special effects (noun)
weather / whether	sunny weather · whether to go
past / passed	walked past, half past three · she passed the test
bought / brought	bought = buy (money) · brought = bring
hear / here	hear with your ear · come here
know / no · new / knew	I know · no milk left · a new bike · I knew it
our / are	our teacher · we are going

The swap test
Swap in the long form: "they are", "you are". If it makes sense, use the short form with the apostrophe. If not, use their / your.

Exam tip: key words from the question are printed on the paper, so copy them carefully. Not sure of a word? Use one you can spell. Leave 3 minutes to read your answer back, one word at a time.

PRACTICE · 42 QUESTIONS

Have a go

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A. Circle the right spelling

1. I'm (definately / definitely / definitly) coming to the match. _____
2. Is it (necessary / necesary / neccessary) to bring a lunch? _____
3. Put the cards in (seperate / separete / separate) piles. _____
4. Did you (receeve / recieve / receive) my text? _____
5. My best (friend / freind / frend) lives in Tralee. _____
6. That was only the (beggining / beginning / begining). _____
7. See you (tomorrow / tomorow / tommorow) at nine. _____
8. I was so (embarrased / embarassed / embarrassed) I went red. _____

B. Circle the right word

9. The players left (there / their / they're) boots in the dressing room. _____
10. (There / Their / They're) going to be late again. _____
11. Tell me when (your / you're) ready. _____
12. This tea is (to / too / two) hot. _____
13. I could (of / have) won that race. _____
14. Cork is bigger (then / than) Galway. _____
15. The test was (quiet / quite) hard. _____
16. My tooth is (lose / loose). _____
17. She (bought / brought) her dog to school for the day. _____
18. I don't know (weather / whether) to laugh or cry. _____

C. Write the plural

19. one baby → two _____
20. one knife → two _____
21. one box → two _____
22. one potato → two _____
23. one monkey → two _____
24. one child → two _____
25. one leaf → two _____
26. one tooth → two _____

D. Add the ending

27. hop + ing _____
28. hope + ing _____
29. happy + ness _____
30. carry + ed _____
31. begin + ing _____
32. care + ful _____
33. cry + ing _____
34. big + est _____

E. Correct the spelling mistake in bold

35. I'll see you **tommorow**. _____
36. My **freind** lives in Tralee. _____
37. We have PE on **Wensday**. _____
38. Tory is an **iland** off Donegal. _____
39. We had an **arguement** about the remote. _____
40. That's a **wierd** noise. _____

F. Exam-style

> *On wensday my freind and I went to the libary. Their was a wierd man reading a book about potatos. He was quiet funny, but we new we had to be quite.*

41. Nine words are underlined. Correct each one.

_____

_____

42. Write two sentences of your own: one using *their* and *they're*, one using *than* and *then*.

_____

CHECK YOUR WORK

Answers

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A	1. definitely · 2. necessary · 3. separate · 4. receive · 5. friend · 6. beginning · 7. tomorrow · 8. embarrassed
B	9. their · 10. They're · 11. you're · 12. too · 13. have · 14. than · 15. quite · 16. loose · 17. brought · 18. whether
C	19. babies · 20. knives · 21. boxes · 22. potatoes · 23. monkeys · 24. children · 25. leaves · 26. teeth
D	27. hopping · 28. hoping · 29. happiness · 30. carried · 31. beginning · 32. careful · 33. crying · 34. biggest
E	35. tomorrow · 36. friend · 37. Wednesday · 38. island · 39. argument · 40. weird
F	41. wensday → **Wednesday** · freind → **friend** · libary → **library** · Their → **There** · wierd → **weird** · potatos → **potatoes** · quiet → **quite** · new → **knew** · quite → **quiet** 42. Answers will vary, e.g. They're bringing their dog. We ate, then we watched a film that was longer than the last one.

Worked examples

10. They're going to be late again.
Swap test: “They are going to be late” makes sense, so the short form **they're**.

13. I could have won that race.
After could, would, should, must, might it's always **have**. “Could of” is what “could've” sounds like.

27. hop + ing = hopping
Short vowel (o) and one consonant (p): double it. Compare 28: hope ends in e, so drop the e: **hoping**.

33. cry + ing = crying
Usually consonant + y changes to i, but not before -ing (criing would have two i's). Keep the y.

Got one wrong? Find the rule on page 1, then play **Spell Strike** at leim.ie/spell-strike.html: the “Go back over these” list at the end shows the reason for each mistake.

All sentences written by Léim. Léim is independent and not connected with the State Examinations Commission or the NCCA.