



English skills progression – writing and spelling

Writing	3 & 4 Year olds Reception ELG	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Handwriting				
	<p>Can I write some letters accurately?</p> <p>Can I form lower-case and capital letters correctly?</p> <p>Can I hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases?</p> <p>Can I write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed?</p>	<p>Can I form lower case letters correctly?</p> <p>Can I form capital letters correctly?</p> <p>Can I form numbers correctly?</p>	<p>Can I write appropriately sized letters?</p> <p>Can I leave spaces between my words?</p> <p>Can I start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters?</p>	<p>Can I use handwriting joins appropriately?</p>
Spelling				
	<p>Can I use some of my print and letter knowledge in my early writing? For example: writing a pretend shopping list that starts at the top of the page; writing 'm' for mummy.</p>	<p>Can I name the letters of the alphabet?</p> <p>Can I spell the days of the week?</p> <p>Can I spell Year 1 common 'exception' words?</p>	<p>Can I spell words by segmenting into phonemes?</p> <p>Can I spell Year 2 common 'exception' words?</p>	<p>Can I use prefixes and suffixes in spelling?</p> <p>Can I use a dictionary to confirm spellings?</p>



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	<p>Can I write some, or all of my name?</p> <p>Can I spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s?</p> <p>Can I spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters?</p>	<p>Can I write dictated sentences?</p> <p>Can I spell regular plural noun suffixes? (-s or -es [for example, dog, dogs; wish, wishes])</p> <p>Can I use common prefixes and suffixes where no change to the root word is needed? (ing, er, ed, est) understanding the effects of these suffixes on the meaning of the root words?</p> <p>Can I understand how the prefix un- changes the meaning of verbs and adjectives? [negation, for example, unkind, or undoing: untie the boat]</p>	<p>Can I learn to spell words with contracted forms (apostrophe)?</p> <p>Can I begin to use the apostrophe for singular possession?</p> <p>Can I distinguish between homophones and near-homophones?</p> <p>Can I write from memory simple sentences dictated by the teacher?</p> <p>Can I form nouns using suffixes such as -ness, -er, -ment?</p> <p>Can I form adjectives using suffixes such as -ful, -less?</p> <p>Can I use the suffixes -er, -est in adjectives and use -ly to turn adjectives into adverbs?</p> <p>Can I spell some compound nouns [for example, whiteboard, superman]?</p>	<p>Can I write simple dictated sentences?</p> <p>Can I use a varied and rich vocabulary?</p> <p>Can I proofread for spelling and punctuation errors?</p> <p>Can I form nouns using a range of prefixes [for example super-, anti-, auto-]?</p> <p>Can I use the forms 'a' or 'an' according to whether the next word begins with a consonant or a vowel [for example, a rock, an open box]?</p> <p>Can I use word families based on common words, showing how words are related in form and meaning [for example, solve, solution, solver, dissolve, insoluble]?</p>
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Grammar				
		<p>Can I leave spaces between words?</p> <p>Can I begin to use basic punctuation (. ? !)?</p> <p>Can I use capital letters for proper nouns?</p>	<p>Can I use . ! ? , and , in my writing?</p> <p>Can I use some features of Standard English?</p> <p>Can I use present and past tenses correctly?</p>	<p>Can I use perfect tense? (have/has + past participle e.g. I have eaten my dinner.</p> <p>Can I use range of nouns and pronouns?</p> <p>Can I begin to use speech punctuation?</p> <p>Can I understand the language of clauses and begin to use commas for clauses?</p>
Sentence				
	<p>Can I write short sentences with words containing known sound-letter correspondences using a capital letter and full stop?</p> <p>Can I write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others?</p>	<p>Can I understand how words can combine to make sentences?</p> <p>Can I join words and clauses using 'and'?</p>	<p>Can I use simple conjunctions for subordination (using when, if, that, or because) and co-ordination (using or, and, or but)?</p> <p>Can I use expanded noun phrases for description and specification [for example, the blue butterfly, plain flour, the man in the moon]?</p> <p>Can I understand how the grammatical patterns in a sentence indicate its function as a statement, question, exclamation or command?</p>	<p>Can I use fronted adverbials?</p> <p>Can I use conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause?</p> <p>e.g. conjunctions - when, before, after, while, so, because; adverbs -then, next, soon, therefore; prepositions - before, after, during, in, because of</p>



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Text				
	<p>Can I re-read what I have written to check that it makes sense?</p> <p>Can I write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others?</p>	<p>Can I compose sentences orally before writing?</p> <p>Can I sequence sentences to form short narratives?</p> <p>Can I read my own writing to my peers and my teachers?</p>	<p>Can I begin to plan ideas for writing?</p> <p>Can I record my ideas sentence-by-sentence?</p> <p>Can I make simple additions and changes after proof reading?</p> <p>Can I make the correct choice of and consistent use of present tense and past tense throughout my writing?</p> <p>Can I use the progressive form of verbs in the present and past tense to mark actions in progress [for example, she is drumming, he was shouting]?</p> <p>Can I develop a positive attitude and stamina for writing?</p>	<p>Can I rehearse sentences orally before writing?</p> <p>Can I begin to use paragraphs as a way to group related material?</p> <p>Can I use headings and subheadings to aid presentation?</p> <p>Can I use the present perfect form of verbs instead of the simple past [for example; He has gone out to play.. contrasted with He went out to play.]?</p> <p>Can I plan and write based on familiar forms?</p> <p>Can I create simple settings and plots?</p> <p>Can I assess the effectiveness of my own and others' writing?</p>