

## Suffix

Letters added on the end of a word to affect the meaning e.g.

\*hand+**ed** = handed    \*camp+**ing** = camping

There are vowel suffixes:

\*ed

\*er

\*est

\*ing

\*able

\*y

As well as consonant suffixes:

\*less

\*ment

\*ful

\*ly

## Syllables

The number of beats in a word e.g.

\*tax - i = 2 syllables

\*bi - cy - cle = 3 syllables

## Trigraph

A trigraph is a single sound that is represented by three letters, for example: In the word 'match', the three letters 'tch' at the end make only one sound. Other examples of trigraphs are: igh as in sigh.



## St John's Mead

Church of England Primary School  
'Valuing Effort, Valuing Others, Valuing Self'

## Spelling Workshop

Key Terminology to  
support your child's  
spelling at home.

## Compound Word

Two words joined together to form a new word e.g.

- \* seasick
- \* playground
- \* lighthouse
- \* paperwork

## Consonant Blend

When two consonants blend together e.g.

- \* spit
- \* stop
- \* list

## Consonant Digraph

When two consonants blend together to make a different sound e.g.

- \* shop
- \* check
- \* phone

## Contraction

A word formed by shortening two other words e.g.

- \* cannot = can't
- \* should have = should've

## Digraph

A digraph is two letters (two vowels or two consonants or a vowel and a consonant) which together make one sound.

## Homophone

Words which sound the same but have different meaning and different spellings e.g.

- \* their, there, they're
- \* stationary, stationery

Homophones come from the Greek words:

Homo (the same) and phonos (sound)

## Mnemonics

A device used to help the memory - a system such as a pattern of letters or ideas to help to remember a spelling e.g.

- \* because - big elephants can always understand smaller elephants

## Prefix

Letters added at the start of a word to affect the meaning e.g.

- \* incorrect (in means not)
- \* preview (pre means before or prior to)

## Root Word

To learn my word I can find the word root. I can see whether the root has been changed when new letters are added e.g. for a prefix, suffix or a tense change e.g.

- \* singing = sing (root) + ing
- \* complicated = complicate (root) + ed