



Year 5 and 6 Common Exceptional Words

As your child learns to read you might hear them talk about the 'exception words' they are learning.

Exception words are words in which the English spelling code works in an unusual or uncommon way. They are not words for which phonics 'doesn't work', but they may be exceptions to spelling rules, or words which use a particular combination of letters to represent sound patterns in a rare or unique way.

It is more important that the children learn the different spelling rules for their year group and apply them in their writing than learn to spell the Common Exceptional Words.

accommodate	definite	interfere	rhythm
accompany	desperate	interrupt	sacrifice
according	determined	language	secretary
achieve	develop	leisure	shoulder
aggressive	dictionary	lightning	signature
amateur	disastrous	marvellous	sincere
ancient	embarrass	mischievous	sincerely
apparent	environment	muscle	soldier
appreciate	equip	necessary	stomach
attached	equipped	neighbour	sufficient
available	equipment	nuisance	suggest
average	especially	occupy	symbol
awkward	exaggerate	occur	system
bargain	excellent	opportunity	temperature
bruise	existence	parliament	thorough
category	explanation	persuade	twelfth
cemetery	familiar	physical	variety
committee	foreign	prejudice	vegetables
communicate	forty	privilege	vehicle
community	frequently	profession	yacht
competition	government	programme	
conscience	guarantee	pronunciation	
conscious	harass	queue	
controversy	hindrance	recognise	

convenience	identity	recommend	
correspond	immediate	relevant	
criticise	immediately	restaurant	
curiosity	individual	rhyme	