

Common Exception Words – Year 1

Tricky words from the statutory Year 1 list.

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Learning objective: I can read and spell Year 1 common exception words.

✓ I can read each word ✓ I can spell it from memory ✓ I can use it in a sentence

1 Look, say, cover, write, check Look at the word and say it. Cover it, write it, then check.

LOOK & SAY	COVER & WRITE	CHECK ✓	WRITE AGAIN	CHECK ✓
said				
they				
was				
there				
friend				
school				
once				
house				
come				
our				

2 Fill the gap Use a word from the box to finish each sentence.

school was friend said They

1 My best _____ came to play after school.

2 _____ are going to the park on Saturday.

3 Mum _____ it is time for bed.

4 We walk to _____ every morning.

5 It _____ a cold and windy day.

Common Exception Words – Year 2

Tricky words from the statutory Year 2 list.

Learning objective: I can read and spell Year 2 common exception words.

3 Look, say, cover, write, check

LOOK & SAY	COVER & WRITE	CHECK ✓	WRITE AGAIN	CHECK ✓
because				
could				
people				
water				
again				
children				
beautiful				
money				
every				
clothes				

4 Spot the correct spelling Circle the word that is spelt correctly.

becos because becuase	peeple pepul people
water watter worter	agen again agin
munny mony money	klothes clothes clowthes

5 Finish the sentence Write the missing tricky word: because, children or water.

- I can't come out to play _____ it is raining.
- The _____ are lining up for lunch.
- Please may I have a glass of _____ ?

My Common Exception Words Checklist

The full statutory lists for Year 1 (45 words) and Year 2 (64 words). Tick each box when you are confident.

Year 1 – 45 words

Box 1: I can read it · Box 2: I can spell it

the	☐	were	☐	be	☐	my	☐	ask	☐
a	☐	was	☐	he	☐	here	☐	friend	☐
do	☐	is	☐	me	☐	there	☐	school	☐
to	☐	his	☐	she	☐	where	☐	put	☐
today	☐	has	☐	we	☐	love	☐	push	☐
of	☐	I	☐	no	☐	come	☐	pull	☐
said	☐	you	☐	go	☐	some	☐	full	☐
says	☐	your	☐	so	☐	one	☐	house	☐
are	☐	they	☐	by	☐	once	☐	our	☐

Year 2 – 64 words

Box 1: I can read it · Box 2: I can spell it

door	☐	only	☐	pretty	☐	hour	☐	many	☐
floor	☐	both	☐	beautiful	☐	move	☐	clothes	☐
poor	☐	old	☐	after	☐	prove	☐	busy	☐
because	☐	cold	☐	fast	☐	improve	☐	people	☐
find	☐	gold	☐	last	☐	sure	☐	water	☐
kind	☐	hold	☐	past	☐	sugar	☐	again	☐
mind	☐	told	☐	father	☐	eye	☐	half	☐
behind	☐	every	☐	class	☐	could	☐	money	☐
child	☐	everybody	☐	grass	☐	should	☐	Mr	☐
children	☐	even	☐	pass	☐	would	☐	Mrs	☐
wild	☐	great	☐	plant	☐	who	☐	parents	☐
climb	☐	break	☐	path	☐	whole	☐	Christmas	☐
most	☐	steak	☐	bath	☐	any	☐		

Word lists: The national curriculum in England, English Appendix 1: Spelling (DfE, 2013), Crown copyright, used under the Open Government Licence v3.0. The curriculum notes that schools may add other words “according to the programme used”.

Answer Key

Common Exception Words – Year 1 and Year 2

Question	Answers
1 & 3 Look, say, cover, write, check	Check each attempt against the word in the first column. Year 1: said, they, was, there, friend, school, once, house, come, our. Year 2: because, could, people, water, again, children, beautiful, money, every, clothes.
2 Fill the gap	1. My best friend came to play after school. 2. They are going to the park on Saturday. 3. Mum said it is time for bed. 4. We walk to school every morning. 5. It was a cold and windy day.
4 Spot the correct spelling	because, people, water, again, money, clothes
5 Finish the sentence	1. I can't come out to play because it is raining. 2. The children are lining up for lunch. 3. Please may I have a glass of water ?

Teaching note: point out the tricky part of each word – the part that does not follow the phonics taught so far (for example the **ai** in **said** or the **ie** in **friend**). Some words, such as **fast**, **path** and **bath**, are only exceptions in some accents.