

Year 2 Common Exception Word List

Here are the common exception words from Year 2 that we will practise each half-term.

The phonics that the children learn helps them to read and spell most of most words. However, many words include exceptions to the patterns taught in phonics. The words below are commonly used and are useful to know. The exceptions are marked in red and purple.

Autumn 1

/ai/ spelled 'i':

child
(+ children)

door
old
great
past
any
again

because
“Big elephants
can always
understand small
elephants.”

Autumn 2

/ai/ spelled 'i':

child, find, kind,
behind, climb

/ar/ spelled 'a':
past, last, after
class

ev/er/y
ev/er/y + bo/dy

Christ/mas

gold
both
who

people “People
eat omelettes.
People like eggs.”

Spring 1

'ould': could,
would, should
“Oh you lucky
duck!”

/oh/ spelled 'o':
both, only,
clothes

/oo/ spelled 'o':
prove, move

floor
hold
even
pretty
fast
sugar
water
eye

Spring 2

/oh/ spelled 'o':
old, gold, hold,
cold, whole

beautyⁱ + ful

most
half, bath
improve
many
money

hour

people
because

Mr, Mrs

Summer 1

/ar/ spelled 'a':
father, grass

poor
told
break
sure
busy

Summer 2

/ar/ spelled 'a':
pass, plant, path

parents
steak

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
child	find	could	gold	father	pass
children	kind	would	hold	grass	plant
door	behind	should	cold	poor	path
old	climb	both	whole	told	parents
great	last	only	beautiful	break	steak
past	after	clothes	most	sure	
any	class	prove	half	busy	
again	every	move	bath		
because	everybody	floor	improve		
	Christmas	hold	many		
	gold	even	money		
	both	pretty	hour		
	who	fast	Mr		
	people	sugar	Mrs		
		water			
		eye			

Some of the exceptions depend on the speaker's accent, e.g. ask isn't a common exception word in many parts of the UK. How your child hears it is most important because that is how they will spell it.