

Year 3 and 4 Statutory Spelling Dictation Passages

These dictation passages are based solely on the list of Year 3/4 statutory spelling words from the DfE English Appendix 1: Spelling. They give pupils the chance to practise these spellings in context and are aligned with the National Curriculum 2014.

They are designed to be mini assessment/revision activities where children scribe several whole sentences that each contain Y3/Y4 statutory spelling words. Within the dictation passages, these focus words are highlighted in bold. Optional dictation transcription sheets, including those where the children need only write the target words, are included within this pack if you wish your pupils to use them.

Y3/Y4 Statutory Spelling List

This dictation pack will cover the following statutory spelling list:

accident(ally)	continue	group	natural	question
actual(ly)	decide	guard	naughty	recent
address	describe	guide	notice	regular
answer	different	heard	occasion(ally)	reign
appear	difficult	heart	often	remember
arrive	disappear	height	opposite	sentence
believe	early	history	ordinary	separate
bicycle	earth	imagine	particular	special
breath	eight/eighth	increase	peculiar	straight
breathe	enough	important	perhaps	strange
build	exercise	interest	popular	strength
busy/business	experience	island	position	suppose
calendar	experiment	knowledge	possess(ion)	surprise
caught	extreme	learn	possible	therefore
centre	famous	length	potatoes	though/although
century	favourite	library	pressure	thought
certain	February	material	probably	through
circle	forward(s)	medicine	promise	various
complete	fruit	mention	purpose	weight
consider	grammar	minute	quarter	woman/women

Dictation Passage 1

Tom was telling his dad how he had been on a few **peculiar bicycle** rides in **recent** times. He explained, "I feel **certain** there is something wrong with the tyre **pressure**. It doesn't go in a **straight** line and **often** veers off in **different** directions." Then, in **February** Tom had a nasty **accident**. Despite pumping **enough** air in his tyres, it had been a slow puncture! Thankfully, after buying a new tyre, Tom was able to go on **regular** bike rides again.

Dictation Passage 2

Imagine you had a **special** power and could travel **through** time to another point in **history**. Which **century** would you **decide** to go back to, and which **famous** men and **women** would you like to meet? Who would be the monarch in **reign** and what one **question** would you ask them? **Suppose** you could change or shape a **particular** event or disaster. What would it be?

Dictation Passage 3

Emma found it **strange** that she did not **appear** to be out of **breath** after walking up the large hill. "All of this **exercise** must be paying off," she thought to herself. She made her way into the shop and smiled at the **woman** behind the counter. She grabbed some **fruit** and checked the **weight** on the bag of potatoes before adding them to her basket. She thought, "I know how **important** it is for my **heart** to eat well and keep fit, **therefore** I will keep these healthy habits up.

Dictation Passage 4

It was very **popular** and **busy** in the **library** today. There were **various** people scattered around browsing the bookshelves. In one corner there was a **group** of **eight** French students trying to improve their **grammar** and **sentence** writing. **Opposite** them, there were some very **naughty**, loud children disturbing the peace. "Have you not seen the **notice**?" scolded the **guard**. "Please keep the noise down," he added.

Dictation Passage 5

About 150 acres of all rainforests are burned every **minute** on **earth**, meaning less rain and less oxygen for us to **breathe**. About one **quarter** of all **medicine** comes from rainforest plants which are being destroyed and the **natural** habitats of millions of animals are being taken away. It also adds to global warming, causing more **extreme** weather conditions and flooding, as polar ice caps melt and **disappear** causing sea levels to **increase**. If we **continue** to harm our rainforests and do not **promise** to **learn** from our mistakes, they could be gone in less than forty years.

Dictation Passage 6

Frank, who was out of work, was looking **through** the **business** section in the newspaper when he saw an advert for the perfect **position**. He had all the necessary **knowledge** and **experience**, so sent off his application form to the **address** shown. Soon after, he **heard** he'd been given an interview and put the date in his **calendar**. On the day of the interview, he left the house **early** to **arrive** in plenty of time. Now all Frank had to do was **remember** everything he needed to **mention** to convince them that he was the man for the job.

Dictation Passage 7

Although this was the **eighth** time the Smith family had been to Crete, there were still many places of **interest** they hadn't **actually** seen. On returning from their holiday, they explained to friends, "We decided on this **occasion** it was **probably** best to pay for a **guide** to show us around the **island**." They went on to describe how they **thought** it was going to be pricey, but much to their **surprise** it was cheaper than expected. "This left us with **enough** money to go to our **favourite** water park," they excitedly declared!

Dictation Passage 8

In netball, as soon as the ball leaves the **centre circle**, players must work together to keep **possession** and score more goals than the **opposite** team. Teams travel up and down the **length** of the court as the ball is thrown **forwards** and backwards, requiring both **strength** and fitness. Some people **believe** that **height** is most **important** in netball- especially if you are a shooter. **Though** others argue that speed and agility is just as vital for each netball **position**.

Dictation Passage 9

The **purpose** of a science **experiment** is to test a **possible** theory in order to find an **answer**. For example, you could test whether an **ordinary material** could be used for a **certain purpose**, such as to keep you warm or dry. An investigation requires you to measure and **describe** what happens and then **consider** this against the theory. **Although** the whole process can be **difficult**, it can also be very rewarding when a theory is proven right.

Dictation Passage 10

"I had great fun with Grandpa Jon who helped me **build** my dream treehouse in the garden," Sammy told his class after the summer holiday break. "It was really **difficult** and we **accidentally** broke one of Dad's tools before we got to **complete** the house!" Sammy recalled how his dad didn't **actually** mind though, **perhaps** because he said he didn't **possess** the skills or **experience** Grandpa had for building things. Only **occasionally** would his dad use his tools to do D.I.Y and even then, he would get all hot, bothered and out of **breath**. He once missed the nail and **caught** his finger with the hammer instead and had to go straight to hospital!