



Hello Year 4,

We wanted to write an explanation of the dots and dashes spelling activity as there is a commonly occurring mistake where blends and digraphs are being confused.

Digraphs are two letters that make just one sound. ... ch in the word chair and ph in the word phone are both examples of digraphs. Blends, on the other hand, are two or more consonants that BLEND together but each sound can still be heard. For instance, the words skirt and clock start with the blends sk and cl.

When we complete the dots and dashes exercise the symbols mean the following:

The single dot under a letter signifies that a sound in a word is represented by a single letter. An example of this is the word dog. Dog will have a dot under each letter as there are three sounds in the word dog (the d sound, the o sound and the g sound).

dog

The dash is when we start to have more than one letter representing a sound. An example of this is the word dash (the d is a sound represented by a dot under the d, the a is a sound represented by the dot under the a and the sh digraph is represented with the line under the s and h).

dash

The curved line comes into use when there is something called a split digraph or as it's sometimes called a bossy/magic e. The word dive is a perfect example of this. We would use a curved line to connect the i and the e (skipping the v) as the job of the e is to influence the i to make it a long vowel sound. So Dive will be a dot under the d, a curve from the i to the e, and a dot under the v.

dive

The key is that it is about the sounds you can hear.

In many children's learning we see that students regularly made the prefixes a dash where the letters should each have a dot. In the mis prefix you can hear the m sound the i sound and the s sound, but the sounds are blended together. This is different to say the sh sound which is a single sound made by two letters. Essentially students are confusing a digraph for a blend.

In short use dots for blends and dashes for digraphs.



We hope this explanation is helpful to you.

Kind regards,
Miss Robinson and Mr Howick



Read Write Inc. Spelling 4

Unit 2: Words ending in *zhuh* spelt **-sure**

President Alpha

Welcome, Earthlings! You are about to enter the Spelling Zone. Our Star Speller for today is... Zeta!

Zeta

Hello, Earthlings. My favourite word ending in the universe is the ending that sounds like *zhuh*.

My turn: *zhuh*.

Your turn...

Words that end in *zhuh* always have more than one syllable.

The ending that sounds like *zhuh* can be spelt **s-u-r-e** at the end of words.

Let's do My turn/Your turn to say all of these words. Remember to say *zhuh* on the final syllable.

measure

treasure

pleasure

leisure

Brilliant. How many syllables are in each of those words? Turn to your partner and then tell me.

Tell me. One, two, three... Go!

The answer is: two syllables.

I love the *zhuh* ending so much that I have found another word ending in *zhuh* for you to see and say but this word has three syllables! Let's do My turn/Your turn to say the word. Remember to say *zhuh* on the final syllable.

enclosure

Let's have a vocabulary check on the word 'enclosure'.

enclosure noun

An area that is closed or fenced off.

The newborn lambs were kept in an enclosure away from the other animals.

We can add suffixes to our words ending in *zhuh* spelt **sure**.

root word	root word + suffix
measure	measurement
measure	measuring
treasure	treasured
leisure	leisurely



Did you notice that we had to **drop the e** before adding **-ing** and **-ed**? Remember, we always **drop the e** before adding a suffix beginning with a vowel.

measure	measurement
measure	measuring
treasure	treasured
leisure	leisurely

Hang on! A Weird Word Warning is on its way. Here it comes.
Weird Word Warning

Beware! The **e** sound in the word 'leisure' is spelt **ei**.

For example, I am going swimming at the **leisure** centre today.

Well, I wish I was at the **leisure** centre today but I have more spelling work to do! Goodbye, Earthlings. It has been a **pleasure** to work with you.

President Alpha

You are about to leave the Spelling Zone. Take your new spelling knowledge with you. Goodbye, Earthlings...



Spelling 4 Unit 2 File 2.2 Dots and dashes

treasure	
measure	
leisure	

enclosure	
pleasure	
closure	



Spelling 4 Unit 2 File 2.2 Dots and dashes

treasure .. <u> </u> <u> </u>	5
measure . <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	4
leisure <u> </u> <u> </u>	4

enclosure . <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	7
pleasure . <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	5
closure . <u> </u> <u> </u>	5



Spelling 4 Unit 2 File 2.4 Word changers

root word	suffix	root word + suffix
pleasure	-s	
treasure	-ed	
measure	-ment	
measure	-ing	

root word	suffix	root word + suffix
leisure	-ly	
capture	-ing	
picture	-ed	

Spelling 4 Unit 2 File 2.5 Choose the right word

leisurely

leisure

pleasure

pleasures

1 I am going to take a walk.

2 In my time, I like to ride my bike.

3 The leaflet listed the of Cornwall.

4 Mum said it was a to spend time with Gran.

measurement

measure

measuring

5 I was my height when the tape broke.

6 How can you the size of the Earth?

7 We took a precise of the length of the beetle.

treasured

treasures

treasuring

8 This lovely picture is my most possession.

9 We found some amazing in the box in the attic.



Mystery words:

Can you find the correct word from the definition provided? Be careful, some words have the –sure ending others have the –ture ending.

1. A time that has not happened yet:

2. To find the size or quantity of something:

3. Uncertain:

4. Permanently fixed piece of household equipment; sports match:

5. Animal, person or other being:

6. An exciting journey into the unknown:

7. Interesting or important part of something:

8. To take prisoner:

9. Ideas, customs and art of a society:

10. A feeling of happiness:



Stages 5 and 6, Phase 4a The 'ture' and 'sure' Word Endings **Answers**

Check your 'Words for Investigation' lists to find the correct answers.

1. A time that has not happened yet:
future
2. To find the size or quantity of something:
measure
3. Uncertain:
unsure
4. Permanently fixed piece of household equipment; sports match:
fixture
5. Animal, person or other being:
creature
6. An exciting journey into the unknown:
adventure
7. Interesting or important part of something:
feature
8. To take prisoner:
capture
9. Ideas, customs and art of a society:
culture
10. A feeling of happiness:
pleasure