Primary 2 Spelling and Vocabulary List

Primary 2 · English

The Singapore Syllabus

1 About this list

MOE does not publish a national spelling list, and each school sets its own weekly lists. This is TSS's own list for Primary 2, pitched to the level using the MOE English Language Syllabus 2020. Use it alongside your child's school list. Everything on this page, including the practice and answers, is in the free PDF from the button at the top, ready to print.

What the official documents say, and what this list is

Point	What it means for you
National spelling list	MOE does not publish a national spelling list. Schools set their own spelling lists, so the list your child brings home will be different from this one.
Your school's own list	Some schools post their weekly lists on the school website or class portal. Learn that list first, as the school test uses it.
Mother Tongue lists	Mother Tongue spelling lists, such as tingxie for Chinese, are set by schools too. This page covers English only.
MOE English Language Syllabus 2020	MOE brought in the English Language Syllabus 2020 from Primary 1 in 2020, and primary schools plan their English lessons on it. Pupils who joined MOE's Learning Support Programme in Primary 1 get extra help with English in small groups.
Marks in P1 and P2	Since 2019 there are no weighted assessments or exams in P1 and P2, and school assessments do not count towards an overall mark or grade.
Foundation or Standard	In P5 and P6, English is taken at Foundation or Standard level, depending on P4 school exam results. This list is pitched at Standard English. A child taking Foundation English can start with the Primary 4 list and move up.
PSLE English	Spelling and vocabulary are assessed in Paper 1 (Writing) and Paper 2 (Language Use and Comprehension). The next section shows where.
This list	TSS's own 120 words for Primary 2, in 12 themed lists of 10 across the four school terms, plus 10 challenge words. Every word has a short meaning and an example sentence written by TSS. MOE and SEAB did not issue this list.

- The list uses British spelling, such as colour, favourite and neighbour, as MOE's own syllabus documents do.

2 Term 1 words (lists 1 to 3)

30 words in 3 lists: friends and classmates, in the classroom, days and time.

List 1: Friends and classmates

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
share	to let others use or have part of something	Let us share the crayons.
together	with each other	We built the sandcastle together.
classmate	a pupil in the same class as you	My classmate lent me an eraser.
lend	to let someone use something for a short time	Can you lend me your ruler?
borrow	to take something and give it back later	I will borrow a storybook from Ali.
laugh	to make sounds because something is funny	We laugh at Dad's silly jokes.
secret	something you do not tell other people	Can you keep a secret?
promise	to say that you will surely do something	I promise to return your pencil tomorrow.
quarrel	to argue with someone in an angry way	The twins quarrel over the last sweet.
forgive	to stop being angry with someone	I forgive you for taking my seat.

List 2: In the classroom

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
eraser	a small object that rubs out pencil marks	I used my eraser to fix the mistake.
ruler	a flat stick for measuring and drawing straight lines	Draw a line with your ruler.
crayon	a stick of coloured wax for drawing	She drew a sun with a yellow crayon.
whiteboard	a smooth white board that the teacher writes on	The teacher wrote the date on the whiteboard.
answer	what you say or write when someone asks a question	Raise your hand to give the answer.
question	something you ask to find something out	I have a question about the story.
listen	to pay attention to sounds	Listen carefully to the instructions.
spell	to say or write the letters of a word in order	Can you spell the word "house"?
lesson	a time when you are taught something	Our Maths lesson is after recess.
homework	schoolwork that you do at home	I finish my homework before dinner.

List 3: Days and time

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
Monday	the day after Sunday	We have art on Monday.
Saturday	the day before Sunday	We go swimming every Saturday.
morning	the early part of the day	I eat breakfast in the morning.
afternoon	the part of the day after lunch and before evening	We nap in the afternoon.
evening	the part of the day before night	We take a walk in the evening.
today	this day	Today is my grandma's birthday.
tomorrow	the day after today	Tomorrow we are going to the beach.
yesterday	the day before today	Yesterday it rained all day.
clock	something that shows the time	The clock on the wall says three o'clock.
early	before the usual time	I woke up early to watch the sunrise.

3 Term 2 words (lists 4 to 6)

30 words in 3 lists: at the hawker centre, in the garden, by the sea.

List 4: At the hawker centre

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
noodles	long thin strips of food made from flour	I slurped up my noodles.
soup	a hot liquid food	The soup was too hot to drink.
spicy	having a hot, burning taste	The curry is very spicy.
sweet	tasting like sugar	This mango is very sweet.
stall	a small shop at a market or hawker centre	The drinks stall is next to ours.
queue	a line of people waiting their turn	We stood in a long queue for chicken rice.
order	to ask for the food or drink you want to buy	Dad will order a plate of fried rice.
bowl	a round deep dish for food	She ate a bowl of porridge.
spoon	a tool for eating soup and rice	Use a spoon to eat your soup.
delicious	tasting very good	The satay was delicious.

List 5: In the garden

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
plant	a living thing that grows in soil	We water the plant every day.
seed	a small part of a plant that grows into a new plant	I planted a seed in a pot.
flower	the coloured part of a plant	The flower smells nice.
leaf	a flat green part of a plant	A leaf fell from the tree.
grow	to get bigger	The puppy will grow into a big dog.
soil	the earth that plants grow in	Put the seed into the soil.
insect	a small creature with six legs	An ant is an insect.
butterfly	an insect with large, colourful wings	A butterfly landed on the flower.
bee	a flying insect that makes honey	The bee buzzed around the flowers.
garden	a piece of land where plants grow	Grandpa grows chillies in his garden.

List 6: By the sea

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
beach	the sandy land next to the sea	We built a sandcastle at the beach.
sand	tiny bits of rock found on beaches	The sand was hot under my feet.
wave	a moving line of water on the sea	A big wave splashed us.
shell	the hard outer cover of some sea animals	I found a pink shell on the beach.
crab	a sea animal with claws that walks sideways	The crab ran into its hole.
turtle	an animal with a hard shell that swims in the sea	The turtle swam slowly past the boat.
swim	to move through water using your arms and legs	I can swim across the pool.
island	land with water all around it	Singapore is an island.
sea	the large body of salt water that covers much of the Earth	The sea looks calm today.
shark	a big fish with sharp teeth	We saw a shark at the aquarium.

4 Term 3 words (lists 7 to 9)

30 words in 3 lists: sports and games, people who help us, staying healthy.

List 7: Sports and games

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
race	a contest to see who is fastest	I came in second in the race.
team	a group of people who play together	Our team won the match.
win	to come first in a game or contest	We hope to win the football match.
lose	not to win	It is fine to lose if you tried your best.
score	to get a point or goal in a game	Ravi kicked the ball to score a goal.
catch	to take hold of something moving through the air	Catch the ball with both hands.
throw	to send something through the air with your hand	Throw the beanbag into the basket.
kick	to hit something with your foot	Kick the ball into the net.
cheer	to shout to support someone	We cheer for our classmates at Sports Day.
medal	a metal disc given as a prize	She won a gold medal for running.

List 8: People who help us

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
doctor	a person who treats sick people	The doctor gave me some medicine.
nurse	a person who looks after sick people	The nurse put a plaster on my knee.
police	the people whose job is to keep everyone safe and catch people who break the law	We called the police when we saw the accident.
firefighter	a person who puts out fires	The firefighter sprayed water on the fire.
cleaner	a person whose job is to clean places	The cleaner sweeps our corridor every morning.
farmer	a person who grows crops or keeps animals	The farmer feeds the chickens.
postman	a person who delivers letters	The postman put a letter in our letterbox.
cook	a person who prepares food	The cook at the canteen makes tasty noodles.
pilot	a person who flies a plane	The pilot landed the plane safely.
dentist	a doctor who looks after teeth	I visit the dentist twice a year.

List 9: Staying healthy

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
healthy	strong and well	Eating vegetables keeps you healthy.
exercise	movement that keeps your body fit	We exercise in the school hall every morning.
fruit	the part of a plant that we eat, often sweet	Have some fruit after lunch.
vegetable	a plant or part of a plant that we eat, like a carrot	Broccoli is my favourite vegetable.
wash	to clean with water and soap	Wash your hands before you eat.
sick	not well	I stayed home because I was sick.
medicine	something you take to feel better when you are ill	Take the medicine after meals.
fever	a body temperature that is higher than normal	I had a fever and felt hot all over.
strong	having power in your body	Exercise makes your muscles strong.
rest	to stop and relax	Rest for a while after running.

5 Term 4 words (lists 10 to 12)

30 words in 3 lists: festivals and celebrations, going on a trip, describing words.

List 10: Festivals and celebrations

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
festival	a special time when people celebrate	Deepavali is called the festival of lights.
celebrate	to do something fun for a special day	We celebrate Chinese New Year with our relatives.
present	a gift you give to someone	I wrapped a present for my friend.
party	a gathering where people have fun together	We had a party for Grandpa's birthday.
lantern	a light inside a cover that you can carry	Children carry lanterns at the Mid-Autumn Festival.
decorate	to make something look pretty	We decorate the house before Hari Raya Puasa.
visit	to go and see someone or somewhere	We visit our cousins during the holidays.
candle	a stick of wax that gives light when it burns	Blow out the candles on your cake.
balloon	a rubber bag filled with air	I held a red balloon at the party.
wish	to want something to happen	I made a wish before cutting the cake.

List 11: Going on a trip

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
holiday	a time when you do not go to school or work	We went to Malaysia for the school holiday.
travel	to go from one place to another	We travel by train to the airport.
suitcase	a bag with a handle for carrying clothes on a trip	Pack your clothes into the suitcase.
ticket	a card or piece of paper that lets you get on a ride or go into a place	Show your ticket to the man at the gate.
map	a drawing that shows where places are	We used a map to find the hotel.
camera	a machine for taking photographs	I took photos with Mum's camera.
airport	a place where planes take off and land	We waved goodbye at the airport.
hotel	a building where you pay to stay the night	Our hotel room had a big window.
journey	a trip from one place to another	The journey to Grandma's house took an hour.
photo	a picture taken with a camera	We took a photo in front of the waterfall.

List 12: Describing words

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
tall	high, or taller than most	My father is very tall.
short	not long or not tall	My little brother is short.
heavy	weighing a lot	The box of books is heavy.
light	not heavy	A feather is very light.
soft	not hard, nice to touch	The pillow is soft.
hard	firm and not easy to bend	The rock is hard.
loud	making a lot of noise	The music is too loud.
quiet	making little or no noise	The library is quiet.
beautiful	very pretty	The garden is beautiful in the morning.
noisy	full of loud sounds	The canteen is noisy at recess.

6 Spelling patterns and sight words

These patterns explain most of the spellings at P2. When your child gets a word wrong, find its pattern here and practise the other words in that row. The sight words follow on from the P1 sets.

Vowel teams, endings and spelling rules

Pattern	Words	Tip
ai and ay	rain, train, paint, day, play, stay	Use ai in the middle of a word and ay at the end.
ee and ea	tree, sheep, sea, read, leaf	Both make the long "ee" sound, so learn which words use which.
igh and y	night, light, high, my, fly	Both can make the long "i" sound.
oa and ow	boat, road, coat, snow, slow	Both can make the long "o" sound.
oo	moon, food, spoon, book, look	The same letters make a long sound (moon) or a short one (book).
ar	car, park, star, farm, jar	Say it like the start of "artist".
or	fork, horse, short, storm, corn	Say it like the start of "orange".
er, ir and ur	her, bird, girl, turn, nurse	Three spellings of one sound, so learn them by word.
Magic e	cake, bike, home, cute, ride	The e at the end is silent and makes the vowel say its name.
Adding -ing	running, swimming, hopping, jumping	Double the last letter after one short vowel (run, running). Do not double after two consonants (jump, jumping).
Plurals with -s, -es and -ies	cats, boxes, dishes, buses, babies	Add -es after s, x, sh and ch. Change y to ies after a consonant.

Sight words to know at a glance

Set	Words
Set 6	could, would, should, again, many, any, every, very, once, eight
Set 7	other, does, goes, half, whole, great, busy, pretty, money, sugar

- Sets 1 to 5 are on the Primary 1 list.

7 Practice: fill in the missing letters

TSS's own practice using words from this list. Read the clue aloud, then your child writes the missing letters and the whole word. Cover the answer column first.

Missing letters, with answers

Word with gaps	Clue	Answer
qu _ _ _	a line of people waiting for their turn	eue (queue)
delic _ _ us	tasting very good	io (delicious)
butt _ rfly	an insect with large, colourful wings	e (butterfly)
tom _ rrow	the day after today	o (tomorrow)
yest _ rday	the day before today	e (yesterday)
lant _ rn	a light inside a cover that you can carry	e (lantern)
j _ urney	a trip from one place to another	o (journey)
bea _ tiful	very pretty	u (beautiful)
medi _ ine	something you take to get better when you are ill	c (medicine)
firefi _ _ ter	a person whose job is to put out fires	gh (firefighter)

8 Challenge words

For a child who finds the Primary 2 lists easy. Use these, then move on to the Primary 3 list.

10 challenge words

Word	Meaning	Example sentence
dinosaur	a large animal that lived millions of years ago	We saw a dinosaur skeleton at the museum.
octopus	a sea animal with eight long arms	The octopus squirted ink and swam away.
pyjamas	loose clothes you wear to bed	I changed into my pyjamas after my bath.
Thursday	the day after Wednesday	We have art class on Thursday.
January	the first month of the year	The school year starts in January.
scissors	a tool with two blades for cutting	Pass the scissors with the handles towards your friend.
sandcastle	a castle shape made from wet sand	The waves washed away our sandcastle.
telephone	a machine you use to talk to someone far away	Grandpa still has an old telephone at home.
playground	an outdoor place with swings and slides	The playground is busy after school.
hospital	a place where sick or injured people are looked after	My aunt works at the hospital.

9 How to use this list

Each list has ten words, about right for one week. If a list is too much, split it over two weeks. A few minutes every day works better than one long session.

A weekly spelling routine you can run at home

Day	What to do	Time
Day 1	Read the list together. Say each word clearly, talk about what it means and read the example sentence aloud.	10 to 15 minutes
Day 2	Look, say, cover, write, check for every word (see the next table). Circle the tricky part of any word your child got wrong.	15 minutes
Day 3	Your child says a sentence aloud with each word, then writes three of the words in sentences.	15 minutes
Day 4	A practice test. Read each word in a random order, then read it in its sentence. Mark it together and redo any word that was wrong.	10 minutes
Day 5	Check only the words missed on Day 4. Add any word that is still wrong to next week's list.	5 to 10 minutes

Look, say, cover, write, check

Step	What your child does
Look	Look closely at the word. Notice its letters, any double letters and the tricky part.
Say	Say the word aloud, then spell it letter by letter. Break a long word into parts, for example "rain-bow".
Cover	Cover the word with a hand or a card.
Write	Write the word from memory.
Check	Uncover the word and compare letter by letter. If it is wrong, start again from Look.

How school spelling tests often work

What to expect	What to do at home
The list usually comes home some days before the test.	Check the test day with your child or the teacher and start the routine early in the week.
Some tests read out single words. Others, often called dictation, read out a sentence or a short passage for your child to write in full.	Practise both. Read out a word on its own, then read out its example sentence for your child to write.
In a dictation, capital letters and punctuation may be checked as well as spelling.	Remind your child to start with a capital letter and end with a full stop.
Each school decides the format, the number of words and whether a test counts towards a mark.	Ask the teacher if you are unsure. Use the school list first and this list for extra practice.

Is this list the right level? A five-minute check

Result	What it means	What to do
9 or 10 right	The level is easy for your child.	Use the challenge words, then try lists from the Primary 3 list.
5 to 8 right	The level is about right.	Work through the lists in order, one a week.
Fewer than 5 right	The level is too hard for now.	Start with the Primary 1 list, or split each list into two weeks of five words.

- How to check: pick 10 words from different lists. Read each one aloud for your child to spell. Count a word as right only if it is spelt correctly.

If your child finds spelling hard

What you notice	What to try
Most words are wrong every week.	Cut the list to five words a week and learn the school list first. Small wins build confidence.
Words are right on test day but forgotten a week later.	Keep a list of words still being learnt and test them again a week later, then a month later.
Letters come out in the wrong order.	Sound the word out slowly together, one sound at a time, and write each sound as you say it.
The spelling is right but the meaning is not known.	Act out or draw the word, and use it in a sentence at dinner.
Your child is upset by practice or avoids it.	Keep sessions to ten minutes, praise effort, and make it a game: spell words aloud in the car or on the way to school.
It is still hard after a whole term.	Talk to your child's English teacher, who sees your child's work every day and can suggest the next step in school.

10 2027 school terms and which lists to use

The lists follow the four school terms. This table gives the 2027 term dates from MOE and the lists for each term. It is the only part of this page that changes from year to year.

2027 school terms for Primary 2

Term	2027 dates	Lists	Holiday after
Term 1	Mon 4 Jan to Fri 12 Mar	Lists 1 to 3	13 to 21 Mar
Term 2	Mon 22 Mar to Fri 28 May	Lists 4 to 6	29 May to 27 Jun
Term 3	Mon 28 Jun to Fri 3 Sep	Lists 7 to 9	4 to 12 Sep
Term 4	Mon 13 Sep to Fri 19 Nov	Lists 10 to 12	20 Nov to 31 Dec

- Primary 1 starts on Monday 4 January 2027. Primary 2 to 6 start on Tuesday 5 January 2027.
- Source: MOE, School terms and holidays for 2027 (14 July 2026).