

PTE spelling list: 158 words people misspell

From Write From Dictation sentences and Listening Fill in the Blanks answers. PTE accepts US, UK, Australian and Canadian spelling; keep one within an answer.

Hard

government the 'n' before 'm' is easy to miss because it's often not pronounced: gover-n-ment

professor one 'f', double 's'

business the 'i' after 'bus' is silent: bus-i-ness

opportunities double 'p', then 'or' not 'er': opp-or-tun-ities

knowledge silent 'k' at the start and silent 'd' before 'g'

laboratory the unstressed 'o' after 'lab' is often dropped: lab-o-ratory

environment the 'n' before 'm' is silent: environ-ment

professional one 'f', double 's'

exercise no 'c' after 'x' (not 'exercise'); ends -ise

success double 'c' and double 's'

argument argue drops its 'e': argu-ment

psychology silent 'p' and 'y' for the 'i': psych-

necessary one 'c', double 's': ne-c-ess-ary

received 'e' before 'i' after 'c': rec-ei-ved

phenomenon 'ph' start and ends -non, not -nom; plural is 'phenomena'

temperature the 'a' after 'temper' is barely spoken: temper-a-ture

ancient 'ie' after 'c' and the 'c' sounds like 'sh'

successful double 'c', double 's', but a single 'l' at the end

separate 'par' in the middle, not 'per': sep-a-rate

curriculum double 'r', single 'c' each time: cu-rr-i-cu-lum

thorough 'thor' + 'ough'; not 'through' or 'though'

accessible double 'c', double 's', ends -ible

beginning double 'n' before -ing

campaign silent 'g' before final 'n': camp-ai-gn

explanation no 'i' after 'expla' (not 'explanation')

accommodation double 'c' and double 'm'

techniques 'ch' sounds like 'k' and ends -que

beneficial 'bene' not 'beni', ends -cial

especially 'es' start, double 'l', -cial-

muscles silent 'c' after 's'

recommendations single 'c', double 'm'

Tricky

science silent 'c' after the 's': sc-ie

available ends -able, not -ible; one 'l'

development no 'e' after 'develop': develop-ment

program / programme one 'm' in American spelling; British adds -me

technology 'ch' sounds like 'k': tech-

college ends -ege, not -age (not 'collage')

financial ends -cial, not -tial or -shal

career ends -eer (car-eer), with one 'r' after 'ca' (not 'carrier' or 'carreer')

mathematics the unstressed 'e' after 'math' is easy to drop

writing one 't' (write drops the 'e'); 'written' has two

field 'i' before 'e': fi-eld

assignments double 's' and a silent 'g' before 'n'

resources 'c' not 's' before the final -es

language -uage, not -auge or -ague

society 'ie' after the 'c': soc-ie-ty

experience ends -ence, not -ance; 'peri' not 'pere'

difficult double 'f', single 'l'

chemistry 'ch' sounds like 'k', and the middle vowel is 'i': chem-i-stry

develop no final 'e' (not 'develope')

designed silent 'g' before 'n'

literature the unstressed 'e' after 'lit' is often dropped

community double 'm'

center / centre American -er; British spelling ends -re

crucial ends -cial, not -tial or -shal

essential double 's' and ends -tial, not -cial

currently double 'r', ends -ent-ly

journalism 'our' sounds like 'er': jour-

variety 'ie' in the middle: var-ie-ty

submitted double 't' before -ed

throughout 'through' + 'out': both have -ough/-ou

weather homophone trap: 'weather' (rain, sun) vs 'whether' (if)

conference ends -ence; unstressed 'e' after 'conf'

seminar ends -ar, not -er

challenges double 'l'

encouraged 'cour' with a 'u', and keep the 'e' before -d

theater / theatre American -er; British spelling ends -re

management keep the 'e': manage-ment

practice noun ends -ice; British uses 'practise' only for the verb

significant ends -ant, not -ent

physical 'ph' for the 'f' sound and 'y' for the 'i'

usually double 'l': usual + ly

taught -aught, not -ought (that is 'brought')

scheduled 'sch' at the start; one 'l' before -ed

analyze / analyse 'y' in the middle; American -yze, British -yse

evidence ends -ence, not -ance

possible double 's', ends -ible not -able

access double 'c' and double 's'

pollution double 'l'

among no 'u' after 'o' (not 'amoung')

adapt near-homophone trap: 'adapt' (adjust) vs 'adopt' (take up)

safety 'e' before 'ty': safe-ty (not 'saftey')

numerous ends -ous, not -ious

potential ends -tial, not -cial

valuable value drops its 'e': valu-able

scholarship 'sch' sounds like 'sk'; ends -ar

participate the unstressed 'i' after 'partic' is often dropped

facilities one 'c', one 'l': fa-ci-li-ties

extremely keep the 'e': extreme-ly

choose double 'o' for present tense; 'chose' is the past

previously -ious-, not -ous-

certain ends -ain, not -ian or -en

statistics 't' and 's' alternate: sta-tis-tics

sociology 'c' not 's' or 'sh': soc-i-ology

built silent 'u': b-u-ilt

achieving 'i' before 'e', and drop the final 'e' of achieve

additional double 'd'

useful single 'l' at the end

responsible ends -ible, not -able

assessment double 's' twice: a-ss-e-ss-ment

summary double 'm' (not 'summary')

architecture 'ch' sounds like 'k': arch-i-tecture

coming single 'm': come drops its 'e'

whether homophone trap: 'whether' (if) vs 'weather' (rain, sun)

probably the middle 'ab' is often swallowed: prob-ab-ly

equipment no 't' after 'equip' (not 'equiptment')

performance ends -ance, not -ence

philosophy 'ph' twice for the 'f' sound

comprehensive 'pre' in the middle and ends -sive

behavior / behaviour American -or; British spelling adds a 'u'

excellent 'c' after 'x', double 'l', ends -ent

communication double 'm'

discussion double 's', ends -ssion

accounting double 'c'

recognized / recognised -ize is American and also used in Oxford British spelling; most British and Australian writing uses -ise

accepted double 'c'; 'accept' (agree) not 'except' (exclude)

listening silent 't': lis-t-en

canceled / cancelled American single 'l'; British doubles it

disease 'ea' in the middle, ends -se: dis-ea-se

assistance ends -ance, not -ence

analysis 'y' in the middle, ends -sis

illness double 'l' and double 's'

whole silent 'w'; homophone of 'hole'

site homophone trap: 'site' (place) vs 'sight' (seeing) vs 'cite' (quote)

accuracy double 'c', single 'r'

extension ends -sion, not -tion

approach double 'p'

influence ends -ence, not -ance

conclusions ends -sion, not -tion

brought -ought, not -aught (that is 'taught')

constantly ends -ant-ly, not -ent-ly

devices noun 'device' with 'c'; the verb 'devise' has 's'

politicians ends -cian, not -tion or -sian

organization / organisation -ize is American and also used in Oxford British spelling; most British and Australian writing uses -ise

allowed homophone trap: 'allowed' (permitted) vs 'aloud' (out loud)

assess double 's' twice

admission double 's', ends -ssion

affordable double 'f', ends -able

advice noun with 'c'; the verb 'advise' has 's'

across single 'c' (not 'accross')

happening single 'n' before -ing (stress is on 'hap')

confidence ends -ence, not -ance

decisions 'c' then 's': de-ci-sion

led past of 'lead' is 'led', not 'lead'

planning double 'n' before -ing

carefully double 'l': careful + ly

benefits 'bene' not 'beni'

reference single 'r' in the middle, ends -ence

oxygen 'y' not 'i', and 'g' for the 'j' sound

vocabulary 'ab' then 'ul': voc-ab-ul-ary

competitive 'pet' then 'i', not 'a': com-pet-i-tive

chocolate the middle 'o' is silent in speech: choc-o-late

globalization / globalisation -ize is American and also used in Oxford British spelling; most British and Australian writing uses -ise

island silent 's'

relevant ends -ant, not -ent

distance ends -ance, not -ence

believe 'i' before 'e': bel-ie-ve

answers silent 'w'