

Years 3 & 4 · Free resource

Endings: -ture and -sure

Year group: 3/4

Source: DfE, *English Appendix 1: Spelling*, National Curriculum for England (2013) — Years 3–4, Suffixes

Curriculum requirement: Statutory

The rule

Two common word endings make the /tʃə/ and /ʒə/ sounds:

-ture makes the /tʃə/ sound ("cher")

picture → /'pɪk.tʃə/

nature → /'neɪ.tʃə/

-sure makes the /ʒə/ sound ("zher")

measure → /'meɪʒ.ə/

treasure → /'treɪʒ.ə/

Neither ending follows the "drop-the-e" pattern because the *e* is part of the suffix itself, not the base word.

Etymology note

-ture comes from Latin *-tura*, a suffix indicating "the result of an action" or "the process of." *Picture* comes from Latin *pictura* (a painting); *nature* from *natura* (birth, character). The /tʃ/ sound developed through French, where the Latin *-tura* evolved into a pronunciation that English absorbed.

-sure comes from Latin *-sura* through Old French. *Measure* derives from Latin *mensura*; *treasure* from Latin *thesaurus* (a storehouse — the same root as a *thesaurus* dictionary). The /ʒ/ sound is a voiced version of /ʃ/, and it appears consistently in *-sure* words of French and Latin origin.

-ture words

Word	Meaning
picture	an image or photograph
nature	the natural world; character
adventure	an exciting experience
creature	a living being
feature	a distinctive part or characteristic
future	the time to come
mixture	a combination of things
capture	to catch or take control
texture	how something feels to touch
structure	the way something is built or organised
fracture	a break (especially in bone)
sculpture	a three-dimensional artwork
manufacture	to make on a large scale
temperature †	degree of heat or cold

(t = Y3/4 statutory word)

-sure words

Word	Meaning
measure	to find the size or amount of
treasure	valuable objects; to value something
pleasure	enjoyment
pressure †	force applied; stress
leisure	free time
closure	the act of closing
enclosure	a fenced-off area
exposure	being open to something
disclosure	revealing information

(† = Y3/4 statutory word)

Distinguishing -ture from -sure

Children sometimes swap these endings. A useful check:

If you can hear a clear /tʃ/ ("ch") sound → spell *-ture* (*picture*, *capture*)

If you can hear a /z/ ("zh") sound → spell *-sure* (*measure*, *treasure*)

If you hear a clear /ʃ/ ("sh") sound, consider *-ssure* (*pressure*, *message*) or *-sure* with a voiceless context

Common mistakes

Wrong	Right	Reason
<i>picure</i>	picture	Full <i>-ture</i> ending needed
<i>tempurature</i>	temperature	<i>temper</i> + <i>-ature</i> – the full suffix
<i>measuer</i>	measure	<i>-sure</i> ending, not just <i>-er</i>
<i>pressue</i>	pressure	<i>-sure</i> not <i>-ue</i>
<i>adventuure</i>	adventure	One <i>u</i> only – <i>advent</i> + <i>-ure</i>

Word sort

Sort by ending.

Words: picture · measure · nature · treasure · adventure · pressure · creature · pleasure · feature · fracture · closure · texture · leisure · mixture

-ture	-sure

Dictation sentences

She took a **picture** of every **creature** she spotted in the garden.

The **treasure** was hidden under layers of **pressure** and stone.

It was a **pleasure** to measure the **temperature** of the liquid.

The **adventure** took them through rocky **terrain** of unusual **texture**.

In their **leisure** time, the class built a **structure** from recycled materials.

Source: DfE English Appendix 1: Spelling (2013). All statutory word examples verified against the published statutory word lists for Years 3–4.