Spelling -ch or -tch

It's easy to confuse these common endings but by remembering some simple rules, you will soon be getting them right every time!



If the last 'ch' sound comes after a consonant, the ending is usually ch. Look at these examples – sear-ch, chur-ch.

If the final 'ch' sound comes after a one-letter vowel, it is usually spelled -tch. For example: fe-tch, ca-tch, pi-tch, wa-tch, dispa-tch.

If the final 'ch' sound comes after a two-letter vowel, the ending should be spelled -ch. For example: bea-ch, tea-ch, crou-ch, tou-ch.

Use these rules to match the beginning of these words to the correct endings then write out the correct spelling to practise.

swi-	ch / tch	switch
rea-		
scree-		
approa-		
lun-		
pea-		
stre-		
wi-		
crun-		
tor-		

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As usual in the English Language, there are exceptions to these rules! Here are some examples:

attach, much, sandwich, which, detach, ostrich, spinach, enrich, rich, such

Which of the three rules above do they break?



Make yourself a spelling list - choose 10 words that you might need to practise. They could be some of the exceptions, 'ch/tch' endings that you know you have got wrong in your writing before or they could be longer words ending in a 'ch' sound that you find in a dictionary or online. (e.g. butterscotch, outstretch) Use Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check (Look at each word, say it out loud thinking about how to spell each sound, cover them with paper or fold your sheet to hide them and then try to write them correctly. Finish by checking your spellings) to practise each word and then ask some one to give you a test when you have finished.

Word	Attempt 1	Attempt 2	Attempt 3	Test

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Do you want an extra challenge?

1. Get someone to give you a spelling quiz on words ending in the 'ch' sound that you haven't practised.
2. Get a reading book and see how many words you can find that end in 'ch' or 'tch.'
3. Write a passage or a story and see how many 'ch/ tch' words you can use.
4. Make posters to illustrate the rules on deciding which ending to use.

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