

## Spelling list: *ir* words

The /er/ sound is commonly found in words like *fern* , *earn* , *stir* and *blur* . It is important to recognise that this sound can be spelt in different ways and learn how to use each spelling pattern.

This list includes words that use the letter combination *ir* to spell the /er/ sound. *Ir* words can be adjectives like *dirty* , adverbs like *firmly* , nouns like *circle* , and verbs like *squirm* .

As there are four different ways of spelling the /er/ sound, you need to rely on your memory to know when to use which spelling pattern. Use the *Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check* activity and spelling games to learn the *ir* words in this list.

**fir**                    A **fir** tree is evergreen.

**sir**                    He wasn't sure whether or not to call his teacher **sir** or master.

**stir**                    We need to **stir** the soup.

**bird**                    The **bird** sat in a tree.

**third**                    My brother is in **third** grade.

**girl**                    The **girl** came home on the train.

**swirl**                    As the tide came in, she felt the water **swirl** around her legs.

**dirt**                    Mary got some **dirt** on her new dress.

**shirt**                    I need to sew a button on my **shirt** .

**thirst**                    Water is best for quenching your **thirst** .

**first**                    I was gripped by the very **first** sentence of this book.

**skirt**                    I tore my **skirt** on a nail.

**squirt**                    Add a small **squirt** of lemon juice to the dish.

**squirm**                    The horror film made me **squirm** .

**birthday**                    What are you doing for your **birthday** ?

**circle**                    The children sat in a **circle** .

circus I object to animals performing in a **circus** .

thirty She is **thirty** years old on her birthday.

thirteen Fourteen is the number after **thirteen** .