

## Spelling list: *ir* and *ear* - longer words

Some words in English use the letters *ir* or *ear* to spell the /er/ sound. This sound is common in longer words like *affirm* , *confirm* , and *earnest* . The *ir* and *ear* combinations create a similar sound to *er* in *her* .

Here are two examples:

*affirm* – I affirm my faith in my religion.

*earnest* – Their conversation sounded very earnest.

These words might feel challenging, but recognising the *er* pattern will make them easier to spell. Click on the *speaker icon* to hear these *er* words pronounced!

affirm                    I **affirm** my faith in my religion.

confirm                I'd like to **confirm** my booking.

infirm                  The old and **infirm** need much help.

circular                We were diverted on a long **circular** route.

circulation            This newspaper has a large **circulation** .

circuit                 He completed the training **circuit** first.

earnest                Their conversation sounded very **earnest** .

research              Medical **research** will help cure more illnesses.