

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.