

# List of Spelling Rules

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# Spelling Rules

Name of Rule or Pattern	Description of Rule or Pattern	Examples
FLOSS Rule	When a one-syllable word ends with the /f/, /l/, /s/, or /z/ sounds, double the final letter	stuff, will, dress, fuzz  Exeptions: bus, gas, pal, us, if, this
C/K Spelling Rule	When spelling /k/, use c before the vowels a, o, and u. Use k before the vowels e and i.	cat, cot, cup keep, kite
Final /k/ Rule	When a one-syllable short vowel word ends with /k/, use ck. Use k after a consonant or long vowel.	stick, duck  milk, rake
The V Rule	English words do not end with a plain v. When /v/ occurs at the end of a word, add a final silent e.	give, have, live
CH/TCH	When a one-syllable short vowel word ends with a short vowel and ch, spell it tch.	switch, latch  Exceptions: much, such, rich, which
GE/DGE	When a one-syllable short vowel word ends with a short vowel and /j/, spell it dge.	bridge, badge
Silent E Rules	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Final silent e can make the vowel say its name.</li> <li>2. Final silent e can soften the sound of c or g.</li> <li>3. Final silent e gives the consonant-le syllable a printed vowel.</li> <li>4. Final silent e can give a consonant a voice.</li> <li>5. Final silent e can make it clear that a word is not plural.</li> <li>6. Final silent e can keep a word from ending in v or u.</li> <li>7. Final silent e can distinguish function from content words.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. cake, gate</li> <li>2. choice, change</li> <li>3. bundle, riddle</li> <li>4. breathe, soothe</li> <li>5. house, goose</li> <li>6. have, sue</li> <li>7. or, ore</li> </ol>
Doubling Rule	If a one-syllable word ends with a short vowel and a single consonant, double the final consonant before adding a vowel suffix Do not double when adding a consonant suffix.	sad + er = sadder sad + ly = sadly
Drop It Rule	Words ending with silent e drop the e before adding a vowel suffix. They keep the e when adding a consonant suffix.	hope + ed = hoped hope + ful = hopeful
Change It Rule	When a word ends with a consonant and y, change the y to i when adding a suffix that does not already begin with i.	tidy + er = tidier tidy + ing = tidying

Plurals	<p>Add -es to words ending with s, ss, sh, ch, or x.</p> <p>Change f or fe to a v and add -es.</p>	<p>bus + es = buses</p> <p>match + es = matches</p> <p>knife + es = knives</p>
Prefix Rule	Never double a consonant when adding a prefix. If the prefix's final consonant and root words initial consonant are the same, keep them both.	<p>mis + spell = misspell</p> <p>un + necessary = unnecessary</p>
OI/OY Pattern	When spelling /oi/, oi is generally used at the beginning or middle of a syllable. Oy is generally used at the end.	<p>oil</p> <p>boy</p>
OU/OW Pattern	When spelling /ou/, ou is generally used at the beginning or middle of a syllable. Ow is generally used at the end.	<p>pound</p> <p>cow</p>
Consonant -le Doubling Rule	If a word ends with a short vowel and consonant -le, double the consonant.	<p>bubble</p> <p>giggle</p>