

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 Exceptions: 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"> Final silent e can make the vowel say its name. Final silent e can soften the sound of c or g. Final silent e gives the consonant-le syllable a printed vowel. Final silent e can give a consonant a voice. Final silent e can make it clear that a word is not plural. Final silent e can keep a word from ending in v or u. Final silent e can distinguish function from content words. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> cake, gate choice, change bundle, riddle breathe, soothe house, goose have, sue or, ore
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	For 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 match + es = matches</p> <p>knife + es = knives</p>
Prefix Rule	<p>Never double a consonant when adding a prefix. If the prefix's final consonant and the root word's initial consonant are the same, keep them both.</p>	<p>mis + spell = misspell un + necessary = unnecessary</p>
OI/OY Pattern	<p>When spelling /oi/, oi is generally used at the beginning or middle of a syllable. Oy is generally used at the end.</p>	<p>oil boy</p>
OU/OW Pattern	<p>When spelling /ou/, ou is generally used at the beginning or middle of a syllable. Ow is generally used at the end.</p>	<p>pound cow</p>
Consonant-le Doubling Rule	<p>If a word ends with a short vowel and consonant-le, double the consonant.</p>	<p>bubble giggle</p>