

Spelling Rules

Depending upon which book and author you read in regards to spelling rules, they may be worded in a slightly different way (e.g., “morpheme” used for “suffix/prefix” or “short word” used for “one-syllable word”). For the Wednesday partner check and the test on Friday, you do not need to write down or memorize the parts in *italics* below. These are just examples to further demonstrate. When creating your list, the words should represent all parts of the rule. For example, on the doubling rule list, you should have one and two syllable words. On the “I” before “e” list you should have “ie” words, “ei” words, words with the long “a” sound, and exceptions.

1. **“I” before “e” rule:**

- * “I” before “e”. (*example: brief*)
- * Except after “c”. (*example: receive*)
- * Except when sounded “a” as in *neighbor* and *weigh*. (*example: eight*)
- * There are exceptions. (*example: either*)

2. **Doubling rule:**

- * In *most* one-syllable words
- * Double the last consonant
- * If the word ends with a consonant, vowel, consonant (CVC)
- * And you add a suffix beginning with a vowel. (*example: tag + ed = tagged or bunt + ing = bunting*).
- * In *most* two and three-syllable words
- * Double the last consonant
- * If the word ends CVC
- * If the stress is on the last syllable
- * And you add a suffix beginning with a vowel. (*example: begin + ing = beginning or section + ing = sectioning*).
- * Exception: Words ending in w,x,y do not follow this rule.
- * If the last consonant is an ‘l’, it is doubled even if the stress does not fall on the last syllable.

3. **Final “e” rule:**

- * Drop the final silent “e”
- * When adding a suffix beginning in a vowel. (*examples: love + ly = lovely or dance + ing = dancing*).
- * Exceptions: words containing the soft sound g/c retain the e before suffixes -able or -ous (*ex. courageous or changeable*)
- * Retain the e in words that might be mistaken for other words if the rule were applied (*ex. singe/singeing, dye/dyeing, shoe/shoeing*)
- * Words ending in ie, drop the e and change the i to y when the suffix ing is added – *to prevent two i’s from coming together* (*ex. die/dying, tie/typing, lie/lying*)
- * In the words mileage, acreage, lineage, the e is not dropped before the suffix -age.

- * Some words can have two acceptable spellings (Ex: “likeable” or “likable”, “loveable” or lovable”).

4. **“Y” to “I” rule:**

- * Change the “y” to “I”
- * When a word ends consonant and “y”
- * And the next suffix begins with anything except and “I”. (examples: *play + ful = playful* or *happy + ness = happiness*).
- * There are some exceptions such as: shyness, babyhood, wryly

5. **Final vowel rule:**

- * Drop the final vowel.
- * When adding a suffix that begins with a vowel.
- * Unless you hear both vowels. (examples: *fine + al = final* or *manu + al = manual*)

6. **“es” rule:**

- * If a word ends in “s”, “sh”, “ch”, “x”, “z”, or consonant and “y”, you add “es” to make it plural. (examples: *classes, crashes, matches, boxes, buzzes, tries*).
- * Some words ending in “o” will end in “es” also (examples: *embargoes, volcanoes, mosquitoes, etc...*)

7. **“cede”, “ceed”, “sede” rule (the word list for this rule will be given to you):**

- * Only supersede ends “sede”
- * Only exceed, proceed, and succeed end in “ceed”.
- * All other words of this sort end in “cede” such as precede, recede, or secede.

8. **“able” / “ible”, “ance” / “ence”, and “ant” / “ent” rule:**

- * Words ending in “able” (*advisable*) are more common than words ending in “ible” (*visible*).
- * There are no formal rules for these endings.
- * Some words can be spelled with either ending (examples: *preventable [more common], preventible*).
- * Words ending in “ance”, “ant”, “ent”, “ence” must also be checked with a dictionary. You cannot tell from pronunciation.

The following rules will be tested, but you do not need to create a list from them:

9. **The letter x is never followed by the letter “s”** (Ex: *excellent, excited, boxes, taxes, exceed*)

10. **The letters i, u, and v never come at the end of English words** (Ex: *have, calorie, cue*). If a word does end in i, u, or v, it is most likely a foreign word that we use (*menu*), or it is an abbreviation for a word (*flu is short for influenza*).

11. **The words “all”, “till” and “full” are written with one l when added to another syllable.** (Ex: *all + most = almost, un + till = until, full + fill = fulfill*).

12. **The letters “ed” at the end of a past tense word say “d” and “t” if the root word does not end in “d” or “t”** (Ex: *stopped* [the “t” sound] or *loved* [the “d” sound]. If the root word had a “d” or “t”, you pronounce the “ed” as “ed”, not “d” or “t” (Ex: *worded* [the “ed” sound] or *parted* [the “ed” sound]).