

9 Great spelling rules



Name _____ Date _____

1. I before E, except after C, when the sound rhymes with 'bee'.
2. Making plurals – usually you simply add 's',
but if the word ends with s, x, z, ch, or sh, you add 'es'.
3. Making plurals when the word ends with y:
if the word ends with a vowel (a, e, i, o or u) then 'y', just add 's',
e.g. donkey → donkeys
but if the word ends with a consonant then 'y', drop the 'y' and add 'ies', e.g.
penny → pennies.
4. Adding suffixes when the word ends with 'y':
drop the 'y' and add 'i' + the suffix, e.g. worry → worried,
UNLESS you are adding 'ing' e.g. worry → worrying.
5. Adding suffixes when the word ends with 'e':
if the next letter is a consonant, keep the 'e', e.g. amazement,
but if the next letter is a vowel, drop the 'e', e.g. amazing.
6. Doubling a consonant before adding 'ing':
if the last three letters have a vowel in the middle, then you double the
consonant, e.g. stop → stopping, begin → beginning.
7. Adding 'ible' or 'able':
If the word is a word on its own without the suffix (e.g. tax, remark, enjoy),
add 'able'.
If the word is NOT a word on its own without the suffix e.g. terr (terrible), vis
(visible), horr (horrible), add 'ible'.
8. Words ending with 'ick' or 'ic':
if the word has one syllable, use 'ick', e.g. click, pick,
but if the word has two or more syllables, it ends with 'ic', e.g. panic, traffic.
9. Words ending with 'cal' or 'cle':
if the word is an adjective (describing word), use 'cal', e.g. comical, logical,
but if the word is a noun (naming word), use 'cle', e.g. bicycle, vehicle.