

Notes on Spelling Rules

Final Constant

Rule 1 One- syllable words ending in single vowel + single consonant double the consonant before a suffix beginning with a vowel. Eg

- Beg + ed = begged
- Big + er = bigger
- Swim + ing = swimming
- Sad + est = saddest

Rule 2 Words of two or three syllables ending in single vowel + single consonant double the final consonant if the last syllable is stressed. Eg-

- Permit + ed = permitted
- Occur + ing = occurring
- Control + ed = controlled
- Begin + ing = beginning

Rule 3 Consonant 'l' is doubled in the words ending in single vowel + "l" before a suffix beginning with a vowel eg.

- Signal + ing = signalling
- Repel + ent = repellent
- Quarrel + ed = quarrelled
- Travel + er = traveller

Rule 4 When the suffix "full" is added to a word, one "l" is removed. Eg-

- Faith + full = faithful
- Use + full = useful

If the word to which the suffix "full" is added ends in "ll", one "l" is removed from the word also. Eg:

- Skill + full = skilful
- Will + full = wilful

Final “e”

Rule 5 Words ending in silent “e”, drop the “e” before a suffix beginning with a vowel eg.

- Hope + ing = hoping
- Live + ed = lived
- Drive + er = driver
- Tire + ing = tiring

If the suffix begins with a consonant “e” is not dropped e.g

- Hope + full = hopeful
 - Sincere + ly = sincerely
- But,
- True + ly = truly
 - Nine + th = ninth
 - Argue + ment = argument

Rule 6 When the suffix “out” is added to a word ending in “ce”, “e” is changed to “i”. Eg:

- Space + ous = spacious
- Vice + ous = vicious
- Malice + ous = malicious
- Grace + ous = gracious

Rule 7 Words ending in “ee”, do not drop an “e” before a suffix , eg.

- See + ing = seeing
- Agree + ment = agreement
- Foresee + ing = foreseeing
- Agree + ed = agreed

Rule 8 When the suffix “ing” is added to a word ending in “ie”, “ie” is changed to “y”. Eg;

- Lie + ing= lying
- Die + ing = dying
- Tie + ing= tying

Final “Y”

Rule 9 A final “y” following a consonant changes to “i” before a suffix except “ing”. Eg.

- Carry + ed = carried
- Happy + ly = happily
- Marry + age = marriage
- Beauty + full = beautiful

But,

- Marry + ing = marrying
- Carry + ing = carrying

Rule 10 A final “y” following a vowel does not change before a suffix. Eg:

- Obey + ed = obeyed
- Play + er = player
- Pray + ed= prayed

“ie” or “ei”

Rule 11 In a word, “ei” is generally used after “c” and “ie” is used after any other letter e.g:

- Conceive
- Conceit
- Deceive
- Receive
- Achieve

- Relieve
- Believe
- Field

BUT,

- Seize
- Protein
- Counterfeit
- Weird
- Surfeit



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