



SPELLING RULES

This resource is for P-10

Some general spelling rules with wide applicability are listed below:

SHORT AND LONG VOWEL SOUNDS

Rule : When a silent “e” is added to the end of a word with a short vowel sound, the vowel sound changes to a long vowel sound.

e.g. pin + e = pine

tub + e = tube

mop + e = mope

LONG VOWEL SOUNDS

Rule : When two vowels occur consecutively in words, they make the long vowel sound of the first vowel.

e.g. pain, coat, flue, pie, meat

WORDS ENDING IN SILENT “e”.

Rule 1 : When a word ends in silent “e”, you drop the “e” before adding an ending which begins with a vowel.

e.g. hope + ing = hoping

paste + ed = pasted

race + er = racer

fame + ous = famous

Rule 2 : When a word ends in “ce” or “ge” you keep the “e” when adding “ous” or “able”.

e.g. manage + able = manageable

advantage + ous = advantageous

notice + able = noticeable

WORDS WITH “ie” AND “ei”

Rule : When “ie” and “ei” sound like “ee” as in “sheep” then “i” comes before “e” except after “c”.

e.g. brief, niece, receipt, deceive

DOUBLING THE FINAL CONSONANT

Rule : Many words of one syllable ending in a single consonant preceded by a short vowel sound, double the final consonant before adding “ed”, “er”, “est” or “ing”.

e.g. win + ing = winning

hot + er = hotter

big + est = biggest

hop + ed = hopped

WORDS ENDING IN “ful”

Rule : When “full” is added to a word you change “full” to “ful”.

e.g. peace + full = peaceful

care + full = careful

WORDS ENDING IN “y”

Rule : When a word ends in a consonant followed by a “y”, change the “y” to “i” before a word ending such as “ed”, “er”, “est”, “ment”, “ly” or “age”.

e.g. dry + er = drier

tidy + ly = tidily

merry + ment = merriment

carry + age = carriage

PLURALS

Rule 1 : Most singular nouns form the plural by simply adding “s”.

e.g. rabbit + s = rabbits

button + s = buttons

Rule 2 : When a word ends in “o”, “s”, “x”, “ch”, “zz”, “sh”, or “z” you add “es” to make the plural.

e.g. hero + s = heroes

dish + s = dishes

box + s = boxes

* Some words ending in “o”, “s”, “x”, “ch”, “zz”, “sh”, or “z” you add “es” to make the plural.

Rule 3 : When a word ends in “y” and is preceded by a consonant, to make the plural you change the “y” to “ie” and add “s”.

e.g. berry + s = berries

nappy + s = nappies

Rule 4: Most words that end in “f” or “fe” make the plural by changing the “f” or “fe” to a “v” and adding “es”.

e.g. shelf + s = shelves

knife + s = knives

* Some words ending in “f” or “fe” simply add “s” to make the plural e.g. roofs, chiefs, giraffes