

## How Parents Can Assist Students With Spelling

### "ie" or "ei"

**Rule:** "i" before "e" except after "c".

Examples: Believe, receive, receipt, ceiling, relief, niece, shield

Exceptions: Neither, leisure, foreigner, counterfeit, stein, Seize, weird, height

**Rule:** If the sound is "ay" the spelling is "ei"

Examples: eight, deity, neigh, neighbour, freight, weigh

### Prefixes

**Rule:** The spelling of a word does not change when you add a prefix to it even when the first letter of the word and the last letter of the prefix are the same.

**Examples:** mis + step = misstep

pre + eminent = preeminent

### Doubling final consonants

**Rule:** A word of more than one syllable ending in a single consonant after a single vowel, doubles the consonant before adding -ed or -ing

Examples: occur/occurring, begin/beginning, compel/compelled, prefer/preferring, control/controlling

**Remember** - Words of more than one syllable have their consonants doubled only when the final syllable is stressed (say the word out loud).

Examples: begin - beginn ing BUT open - opening

defer - deferr ing BUT offer - offering

**Rule:** If the preceding vowel is unstressed or spelled with two vowels, do not double the consonant.

Examples: enter/entering, visit/visiting, develop/developing, dread/dreading, appeal/appealing, shout/shouting

Exceptions: worship/worshipping, kidnap/kidnapping, handicap/handicapped

**Rule:** Final consonants are not doubled before suffixes beginning with a consonant.

Examples: enrol/enrolment, commit/ commitment, fulfil/fulfilment, prefer/preferment, quarrel/quarrelsome, rival/rivalry

**Rule:** Words of more than one syllable ending in "l" double the "l" even if the stress does not fall on the last syllable.

Examples: cancel/cancelled, travel/travelling, jewel/jeweller

Exceptions: appeal/appealing, parallel/paralleled

### The final "e"

**Rule:** Keep the final "e" of the base word before adding a suffix beginning with a consonant (-ment, -ness, -less, -ful).

Examples: commencement, pronouncement, amusement

Exceptions: argument, awful, truly, wholly

**Rule:** If the suffix or verb ending begins with a vowel, drop the final "e".

Examples: commencing, pronouncing, amusing

**Rule:** To retain the soft sound of the "c" (s sound) and of the "g" (j sound) in words ending in "ce" and "ge", we keep the final "e".

Examples: peace/peaceable, replace/replaceable, arrange/arrangement, advantage/advantageous, notice/noticeable, change/changeable

**Rule:** Words ending in two vowels (a vowel + final "e") retain the final vowel "e" before adding a suffix.

Examples: see/seeable, shoe/shoeing, canoe/canoeing

### **"c" or "g" endings**

**Rule:** For words ending in "c", insert "k" before adding -ing or -y.

Examples: picnic/picnicking, traffic/trafficking, panic/panicky

### **"y" endings**

**Rule:** If the word has a consonant before the "y", and when adding -ed or -er after "y", change the "y" to "i".

Examples: mercy/merciless, fly/flier, carry/carried

**Rule:** If the word has a vowel before the "y", or when adding -ing keep the "y".

Examples: employ/employed, annoy/annoying, carry/carrying

### **"o" endings**

**Rule:** If a Noun ends in "o", add -es.

Examples: potato/potatoes, echo/echoes, hero/heroes

Exceptions: studio/studios, piano/pianos, kangaroo/kangaroos, zoo/zoos

### **The "shen" sound**

The sounds at the end of musician and condition sound alike but....

- cian always means a person, where...
- tion or sion are never used for people.

How do you tell whether to use tion or sion?

**Rule:** If the root word ends in "t", use -tion.

Examples: complete/completion

**Rule:** If the root word ends in "s" or "d", use sion.

Examples: extend/extension, suppress/suppression

**Rule:** If the sound of the last syllable is the "heavy" sound of /zhun/ rather than the light sound, /shun/, use "s".

Examples: confusion, vision, adhesion

Exceptions: The ending, -mit becomes -mission: permit/permission, omit/omission, submit/submission, commit/commission