



Spelling Rules

Use "i" before "e" except after "c" or when it sounds like "ay", as in neighbour and weigh.

- **I before E:** relieve, believe, friend, niece, fierce, frieze
- **E before I:** receive, deceive, sleigh, freight, eight.
- **Exceptions:** seize, either, weird, height, foreign, leisure

Drop a final silent "e" when adding a suffix that begins with a vowel. Keep the final "e" if the suffix begins with a consonant.

- **Vowel:** desire → desiring; remove → removable
- **Consonant:** achieve → achievement; care → careful

When adding "s" or "ed" to words ending in "y", change the "y" to "i" when it is preceded by a consonant but not when it is preceded by a vowel.

- **Vowel:** monkey → monkeys; play → played
- **Consonant:** comedy → comedies; dry → dried
- **Exception:** Do not change the spelling of proper names ending in "y" when adding an ending.

A one-syllable word that ends in a single consonant that follows a single vowel must double its final consonant before adding a suffix that begins with a vowel.

- bet (one syllable, ends in a consonant "t" following a vowel "e") → betting

Doubling also occurs in longer words if the stress is on the last syllable.

- commit → committed
- occur → occurrence

There are a few pluralization rules to consider:

- 1) Add "s" to form the plural of most nouns. Add "es" to nouns ending in "s", "sh", "ch", and "x".
 - table → tables; paper → papers
 - church → churches; dish → dishes
- 2) Add "s" to nouns ending with "o" when the "o" is preceded by a vowel. Add "es" when it is preceded by a consonant.
 - radio → radios; video → videos
 - hero → heroes; tomato → tomatoes
- 3) To form the plural of a hyphenated compound word, add the "s" to the chief word even if it does not appear at the end.
 - mother-in-law → mothers-in-law
- 5) English words derived from other languages such as Latin or French sometimes form the plural as they would in their original language.
 - medium → media
 - criterion → criteria
 - chateau → chateaux