

SPELLING: RULES AND REMINDERS

Vowel-suffixes, include ...-able, -ed, -en, -er, -est, -ing, -ious, -ish, -ous, -y, etc.

Consonant-suffixes include -ful, -less, -ment, -ness, -red, etc.

1. Apostrophe.

- (a) Ask yourself Which word indicates the owner or owners?
Put the apostrophe immediately after this word.
- (b) Ask yourself Which letter (or letters) has been left out?
Put the apostrophe in place of it.

2. Doubling the last letter.

(This rule applies only to words of one syllable that do not end in w, x, or y.)

When adding a vowel-suffix,

Double the last letter if it follows a single vowel:

get, getting; rub, rubbed.

Do not double the last letter:

- (a) when it follows a pair of vowels:
dear, dearest; stoop, stooped
- (b) when you are adding a consonant- suffix:
red, redness; hat, hatless.
- (c) when it follows a consonant:
bark, barking; wash, washed
- (d) when it is e; in this case obey rule 3.

3. Dropping the E.

If a word ends in a silent e, drop the e when adding a vowel-suffix:

come, coming; stone, stony

But words ending in ce and ge keep the e when adding -ous or -able:

notice, noticeable courage courageous

The e is not dropped when a consonant-suffix is added:

hope, hopeful

4. ei and ie.

When these letters rhyme with bee

Put i before e except after c.

Exceptions: seize, weir, weird, and names such as Sheila, Keith, etc.

5. Words ending in ie.

These change the ie to y before adding -ing.

die, dying; tie, tying

6. -ful and -fully.

When adding full to a word, drop one l:

peace, peaceful

Keep both l's in fully:

peaceful, peacefully

If the word ends in y, with a consonant before it, change the y to i.

mercy, merciful, mercifully

7. Of This word means:

1. Belonging to (The door of the church).
2. Away from (Out of the house).
3. Made from (A rod of iron).
4. Belonging to (A book of Jim's).
5. Concerning (Proud of my school).

8. Off. This word means:

1. Away from (Take it off the table).
2. Away (Tell him to go off).

9. Plurals of words ending in F or FE.

As a general rule, change the f into v and add es or s.

half - halves; wife - wives

Exceptions : chiefs, roofs, dwarfs, reefs.

10. Plurals of words ending in Y.

If the letter before y is a consonant, change the y to i and add es:

penny, pennies

If the letter before y is a vowel, add s:

valley, valleys; chimney, chimneys

11. There and their.

If their can be my, then spell it with i.

Example: Having tea
 Having my tea = yes
 So: Having their tea

12. To, too, two.

two = 2

too: too big; too thick; too few.

I went, too = I went as well.

to: to plough and to sow; ten to six.