the doubling up 1:1:1: spelling rule as in:

put - putting, big-bigger, stop-stopped, fat- fatten, run - running, thin - thinner, sit - sitting, get - getting, stop-stopping, hot-hotter, swim - swimming...

Do you know why we double up the end consonant?

Before I explain let's look at  some spelling language we need for this rule:

Do you know what vowels, consonants, suffixes , syllables are?

**vowels**- a.e.i.o.u (y is sometimes classed as a vowel)

**consonants** - b,c,d,f,g,k,l,m,n,p,r,s,t,w,y,z

**suffixes** are little words added to the end of a word: -ing, -s, -ment, -ed...

**syllables:**  are bits of a word broken down with a vowel in them, and different bits can be stressed.   
qua/li/fi/ca/tion  begin,  swimming

Let's look at those words again:

put - putt**ing**, big-bigg**er**, stop-stopp**ed**, fat- fatten, run - running, thin - thinner, sit - sitting, get - getting, stop-stopping, hot-hotter, swim - swimming...  
  
Do you know why we double up the last consonant?

Say these words to yourself - put/sit/run/swim/thin/get

Notice they all have **1** syllable sounds

Notice they all have **1** consonant at the end of the word.

Notice they all have **1** vowel next to the consonant:

With the 1:1:1 rule, we usually double the end consonant when we add the following vowel suffixes (-ing,-ed,-er, -est, -en, -ish, -ery, -y)

put - putt**ing**, big-bigg**er**, stop-stopp**ed**, fat- fatten, run - running, thin - thinner, sit - sitting, get - getting, stop-stopping, hot-hotter, swim - swimming...

So words of one syllable ending in one vowel + one consonant, double the last letter before a vowel suffix.

We don't double up the final consonant when it's **w, x or y**

But that's not all:

\*\*\* We also double up some words that are more than one syllable when the last syllable is stressed.

prefer ("preFER") - preferring/preferred (but **not** preference)  
begin ("beGIN") - beginning, beginner  
regret ("reGRET") - regrettable, regretting  
occur ("ocCUR") - occurred, occurring, occurrence  
forbid - forbidden  
commit - committed  
refer - referred (but **not** reference stressed)

*Remember there are always exceptions to English spelling rules!!!*

Focus can be spelled with either a single or a double **s focused/focussed, focusing/focussing**