

Words Matter:

A Journey

Through Spelling

Spelling is easier for some people than it
is for others, but everyone needs to make an
effort to spell correctly. Misspellings are
distracting for the reader, and they make
writing hard to read.

Spelling

- The forming of words from letters according to accepted usage: orthography.
- A sequence of letters composing a word.
- The way in which a word is spelled.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

COMMON
SPELLING
ERRORS

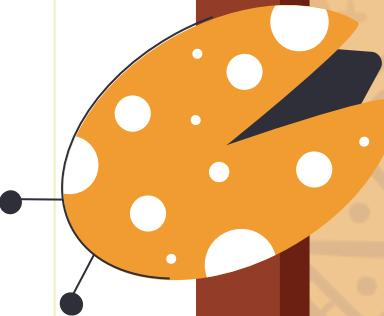


02

RULES IN
SPELLING

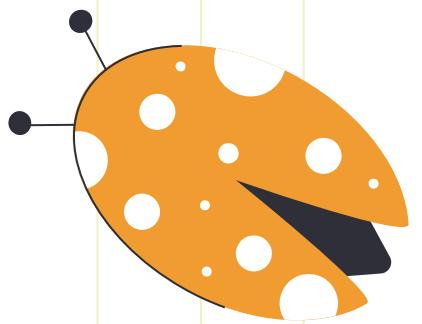
03

STRATEGIES
YOU CAN USE TO
IMPROVE YOUR
SPELLING



01

SOME COMMON SPELLING ERRORS



Some common spelling errors:

their (possessive form of they)

there (in that place)

they're (contraction of they are)

accept (a verb, meaning to receive or to admit to a group)

except (usually a preposition, meaning but or only)

who's (contraction of who is or who has)

whose (possessive form of who)

Some common spelling errors:

your (possessive form of you)

you're (contraction of you are)

affect (usually a verb, meaning to influence)

effect (usually a noun, meaning result)

than (used in comparison)

then (refers to a time in the past)

were (form of the verb to be)

we're (contraction of we are)

where (related to location or place)



02 RULES IN SPELLING

1. I before e except after c, and when sounded like a (usually).

- Examples: We usually spell things **ie** and not **ei**.

- correct: believe misspelled: **beleive**

- correct: friend misspelled: **freind**

Exceptions:

- a. When coming after letter "c," then it is usually spelled **ei**:

- correct: receive misspelled: **recieve**

- correct: ceiling misspelled: **cieling**

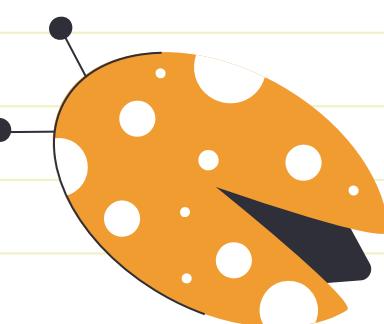
- b. When sounding like "a":

- correct: neighbor misspelled: **nieghbor**

- correct: weigh misspelled: **wiegh**

- These rules do not apply when **e** and **i** appear in different syllables.

*Examples: be-ing, re-imburse, sci-
nce, soci-ety*



2. When to double the final consonant

- When you have a word that ends with a **consonant + vowel + consonant**, the final consonant can be doubled in some words, **but not in others**:

► The final consonant is **doubled if the stress falls on the final syllable**.

Examples: trans' mit - transmitted
for' get - forgetting

► It is not **doubled if the stress does not fall on the final syllable**.

Examples: 'offer - offer
'pedal - pedaling

► Short, one-syllable words **always double the final**.

Examples: stop - stopped
get - getting
bus - busses

► We do **not double** the final consonant for words with patterns like **vowel+vowel+consonant**.

Examples: repair - repaired
clean - cleaning

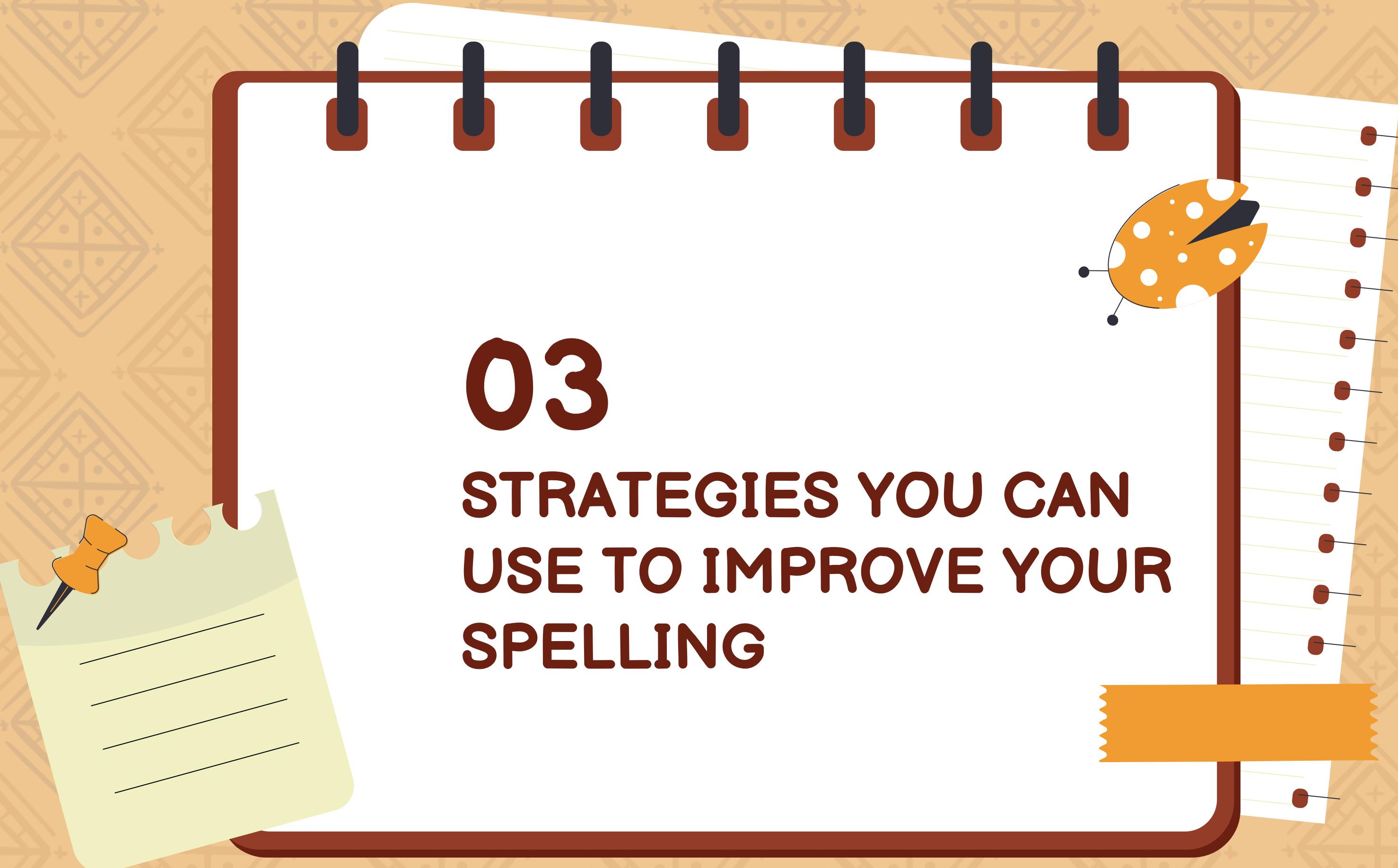
• We do **not double** the final consonants for words ending in **consonant+consonant**.

Examples: help - helped
print - printing



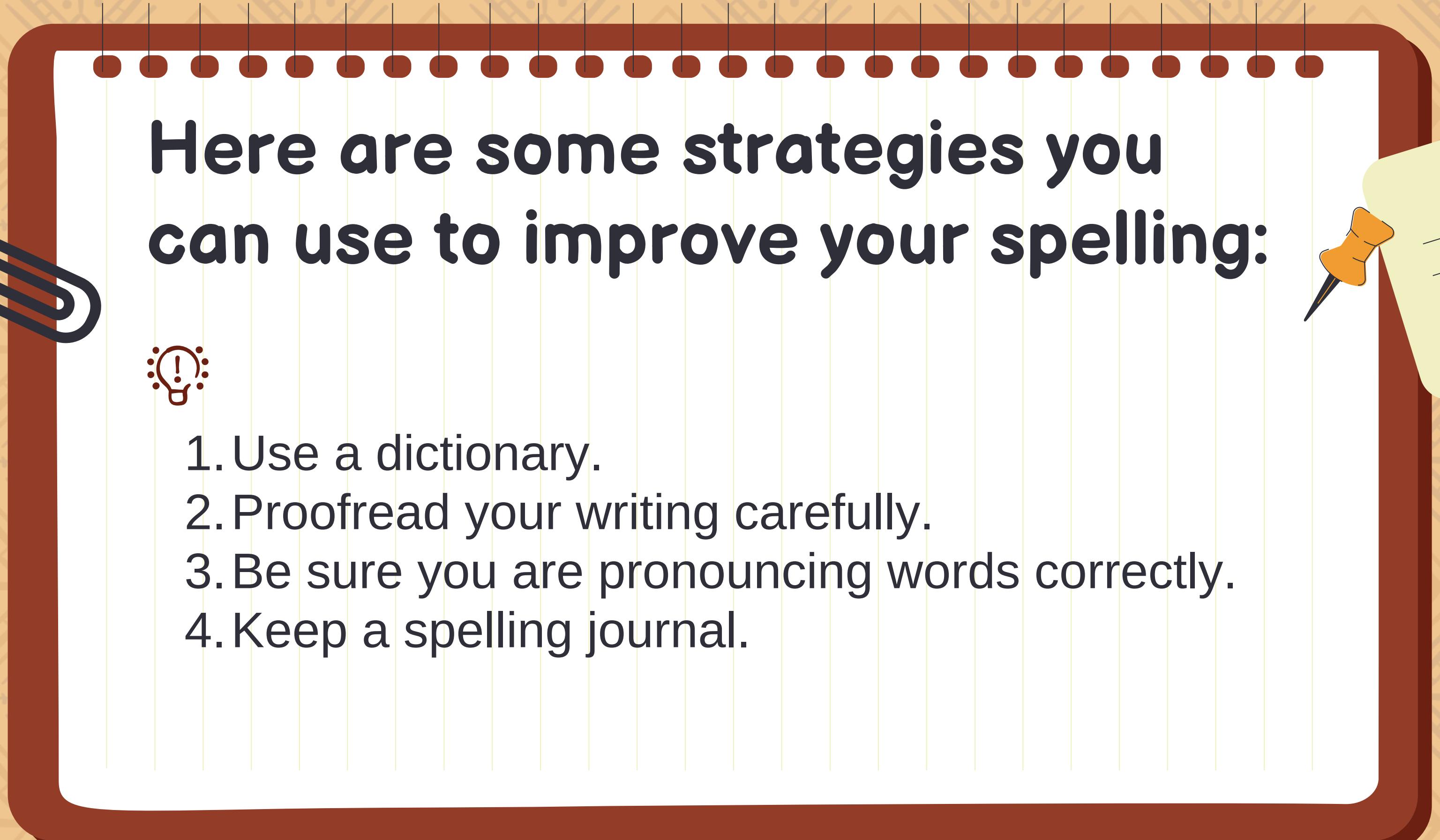
3. When to use -us and -ous

- The -us ending is used for nouns
Examples: genius, focus, virus
- The -ous ending is used for adjectives
Examples: generous, religious, humorous



03

STRATEGIES YOU CAN USE TO IMPROVE YOUR SPELLING



Here are some strategies you can use to improve your spelling:



1. Use a dictionary.
2. Proofread your writing carefully.
3. Be sure you are pronouncing words correctly.
4. Keep a spelling journal.

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