

Appendix A: Spelling Rules

The spelling rules account for the endings to be added to stems that end in velars (г к х), hushing sounds (ш щ ж ч), and ц.

For words whose stem ends in one of these letters, do not worry about whether the stem is hard or soft. Rather, always attempt to add the *basic* ending, then apply the spelling rule if necessary.

Never break a spelling rule when adding endings to Russian verbs or nouns!

8-Letter Spelling Rule

After the letters	г к х	ш щ ж ч	ц	do not write -ю, write -y instead do not write -я, write -a instead
-------------------	-------	---------	---	--

7-Letter Spelling Rule

After the letters	г к х	ш щ ж ч		do not write -и, write -и instead
-------------------	-------	---------	--	-----------------------------------

5-Letter Spelling Rule

After the letters		ш щ ж ч	ц	do not write unaccented -o, write -e instead
-------------------	--	---------	---	---

USE

We see the spelling rules *most often* in these situations:

1. The 8-letter spelling rule is used in и-conjugation verbs.
2. The 7- and 5-letter spelling rules are used in the declension of modifiers and nouns.