

### 6.5 Words ending in -e (hope, dance, wide etc.)

#### Verbs

If a verb ends in -e, we leave out **e** before the ending -ing:

hope/hoping      smile/smiling      dance/dancing      confuse/confusing

Exceptions are **be/being**

and verbs ending in -ee:      see/seeing      agree/agreeing

If a verb ends in -e, we add -d for the past (of regular verbs):

hope/hoped      smile/smiled      dance/danced      confuse/confused

#### Adjectives and adverbs

If an adjective ends in -e, we add -r and -st for the comparative and superlative:

wide/wider/widest      late/later/latest      large/larger/largest

If an adjective ends in -e, we keep **e** before -ly in the adverb:

polite/politely      extreme/extremely      absolute/absolutely

If an adjective ends in -le (simple, terrible etc.), the adverb ending is -ply, -bly etc. :

simple/simply      terrible/terribly      reasonable/reasonably

### 6.6 Doubling consonants (stop/stopping/stopped, wet/wetter/wettest etc.)

Sometimes a word ends in *vowel + consonant*. For example:

stop   plan   rub   big   wet   thin   prefer   regret

Before the endings -ing/-ed/-er/-est, we double the consonant at the end. So **p** → **pp**, **n** → **nn** etc.

For example:

stop	p → <b>pp</b>	stopping	stopped
plan	n → <b>nn</b>	planning	planned
rub	b → <b>bb</b>	rubbing	rubbed
big	g → <b>gg</b>	bigger	biggest
wet	t → <b>tt</b>	wetter	wettest
thin	n → <b>nn</b>	thinner	thinnest

If the word has more than one syllable (**prefer**, **begin** etc.), we double the consonant at the end *only if the final syllable is stressed*:

preFER / preferring / preferred

perMIT / permitting / permitted

reGRET / regretting / regretted

beGIN / beginning

If the final syllable is not stressed, we do *not* double the final consonant:

VISit / visiting / visited

deVELOp / developing / developed

HAPpen / happening / happened

reMEMber / remembering / remembered

In British English, verbs ending in -l have -ll- before -ing and -ed whether the final syllable is stressed or not:

travel / travelling / travelled

cancel / cancelling / cancelled

For American spelling, see Appendix 7.

#### Note that

we do *not* double the final consonant if the word ends in *two* consonants (-rt, -lp, -ng etc.):

start / starting / started

help / helping / helped

long / longer / longest

we do *not* double the final consonant if there are *two* vowel letters before it (-oil, -eed etc.):

boil / boiling / boiled

need / needing / needed

explain / explaining / explained

cheap / cheaper / cheapest

loud / louder / loudest

quiet / quieter / quietest

we do *not* double **y** or **w** at the end of words. (At the end of words **y** and **w** are not consonants.)

stay / staying / stayed

grow / growing

new / newer / newest