

SPELLING General Spelling Rules

In English, there are exceptions to all of the rules. However the rules below cover many words and can be used as general guidelines.

- I before e, except after c, or when sounded like a as in neighbor and weigh.
- Make nouns ending in -ch, -s, sh, -x, or -z plural by adding -es.
- For one syllable words ending in a consonant preceded by a vowel, double the consonant when adding -ing or -ed.
- A silent e at the end of a word makes the vowel long. Drop the silent e when adding -ing or -ed. Keep the e when adding -ly.
- In words ending in -f or -fe preceded by two vowels, simply add an s.
- In words ending in -f or -fe preceded by a consonant or single vowel, change the -f or -fe to -ve when adding an s.
- When adding -ly to a word, the root word does not change except when the word 1) ends in e preceded by another vowel, in which case the e is dropped, or 2) it ends in -able, in which case the e is dropped.
- All alone, use a double l. All with another word, use a single l.
- Generally, for words ending in o, simply add an s.
- The letter q is followed by a u.
- When a word ends in y, the y does not change when adding -ing.
- When a word ends in y preceded by a vowel, the y does not change when adding s.
- When a word ends in y preceded by a consonant, change the y to i and add -es or -ed.
- When a word ends in y, the y changes to i when adding -ly.
- The letter x is never followed by an s.