

Spelling Rule #7

Making singular words plural

Add an *s* to most words

Books	Computers
Files	Tracks

If the word ends in *s*, *ss*, *sh*, *ch* or *x* add *es*

Businesses	Dishes
Gases	Matches
Taxes	

If a words ends in *y* preceded by a consonant, change the *y* to *ies*

Armies	Booties
Ladies	Libraries
Parties	

If the ending *y* follows a vowel, just add *s*

Days	Joys
Says	

Some words can be used as plurals without any changes

Deer	Fish
Antelope	

Some words change their root spelling to form plurals

Goose → Geese
Tooth → Teeth

Sometimes plurals are formed by changing the word endings

Alumnus → Alumni
Synopsis → Synopses



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Spelling

Spelling Rule #1

Adding suffixes to one-syllable words

When a one-syllable word (e.g. *pat*) ends in a single consonant (*pat*) preceded by a single vowel (*pa*), the final consonant is doubled (*tt*) when adding a suffix (+ *-ed* = *patted*)

Patted	Fattest
Shopper	Mapping

However, if the one-syllable word (e.g. *climb* or *loan*) ends in two consonants (*climb*), or if there are two vowels before the final consonant (*loan*), then the rule does not apply.

Climbed	Loaned
Meeting	Pulled
Screamer	Sharper

Spelling Rule #2

Adding suffixes to words with two or more syllables

If the last syllable is stressed (e.g. *prefer*), then use the same spelling rule as for one-syllable words (follow Spelling Rule #1).

Preferring	Combatting
Rebelling	

As in Spelling Rule #1, if the word (e.g. *alarm* or *balloon*) ends in two consonants (*alarm*), or if two vowels precede the final consonant (*balloon*), then the rule does not apply

Alarmed	Ballooning
Reflection	Retaining

Usually, if the last syllable is not stressed (e.g. *profit*), then just add the suffix.

Profitable	Showering
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Spelling Rule #3

Adding a suffix beginning with a vowel to words ending with a silent e

A silent e is usually dropped from a word to add a suffix that begins with a vowel (e.g. *advise* + *-or*)

Advisor	Believable
Expensive	Finest

Exceptions:

- If the suffix *-able* or *-ous* is added to a word with a soft g or c, do not drop the e (e.g. *outrageous*)
- Do not drop the e if the new word could be misunderstood or mistaken for another word (e.g. *dyeing* vs *dying*)
- If the word ends in *ie*, drop the e and change the i to y before adding the suffix (e.g. *die* → *dying*)

Spelling Rule #4

Adding a suffix that begins with a consonant to a word that ends with a silent e

Do not drop the silent e if the suffix begins with a consonant (e.g. *same* + *-ness* = *sameness*)

Engagement	Extremely
Fateful	Shoeless

Exceptions:

Argument	Awful
Judgment	Truly

Spelling Rule #5

Using ie and ei

Use *i* before *e* except after *c*

Believe	Receive
Chief	Ceiling
Piece	Conceited
Fierce	

Exceptions:

Ancient	Foreign
Forfeit	Height
Lesuire	Neither
Seize	Sovereign

Or when *ei* is pronounced with an “ay” sound

Feign	Neighbor
Sleigh	Reign

Spelling Rule #6

Adding suffixes to words then end in y

If a y is preceded by a vowel, do not change it when adding the suffix

Boyish	Displaying
Honeys	Playful
Preys	Stayed

If a y follows a consonant change it to *i* and add the suffix

Funniest	Happiest
Penniless	Pitiful
Tried	

Exceptions:

Babyhood	Denying
Ladylike	Partying