

Double Letters (f, l, s, z)

The letters **f**, **l**, **s**, and **z** are doubled after a short vowel in one-syllable words.

st <u>ff</u>	o <u>ff</u>
be <u>ll</u>	mi <u>ll</u>
me <u>ss</u>	dr <u>ess</u>
fu <u>zz</u>	ja <u>zz</u>

Common exceptions to this rule: gas, has, yes, this, bus, plus, us

(short **e** and short **o** word lists)

Double the Consonant

When a word ends in a short vowel CVC pattern (as in “sun”), double the final consonant before adding a vowel ending (**y, ing, ed, er, en**).

sun + y = sunny

run + ing = running

drop + ed = dropped

slip + er = slipper

(short **e** and short **o** word lists)

Plural Forms - adding “es”

To make the plural of a noun ending in **ss, sh, ch, tch, x, or zz**, add **es**.

wish + es = wishes

bench + es = benches

box + es = boxes

toss + es = tosses

stitch + es = stitches

This rule does not apply to words ending in **th** (such as paths).

(**ch, sh, and tch** word lists)

Verb Forms - adding “es”

To change the form of a verb ending in **ss, sh, ch, tch, x, or zz**, add **es**.

I miss. He misses.

I wash. He washes.

I watch. He watches.

I mix. She mixes.

It buzzes.

(**ch, sh, and tch** word lists)

When to Use “ck”

The phonogram **ck** is used after a short vowel sound.

Compare the following:

rack vs rake

pick vs pike

back vs bake

speck vs speak

(**ck** word list)

Silent “e” - Job #3

Every syllable needs a vowel.

Therefore, a silent **e** is added to the following final syllables:

-ble, -cle, -dle, -fle, -gle, -kle, -ple, -tle, -zle

as in words like:

table, bubble, ruffle, tangle, jungle, tackle, apple,
little, puzzle

(**ang** and **ung** word lists)

Silent “e” - Job #1

Adding a silent **e** to the end of a short-vowel word makes the vowel say its long sound (VC+E) pattern.

hop + e = hope

tap + e = tape

rip + e = ripe

cub + e = cube

(*silent e* word lists)

Silent “e” - Job #2

Words in their base form usually do not end in the letter **v** or a single letter **s**. Such words end in a silent **e**.

give, live, have, love, above,
horse, house, goose, mouse

Exceptions include: has, bus

*Note: Verbs in the third person singular form do end in a singular **s** (eats, gives, lives).*

*Plural nouns also end in a singular **s** (hats, horses, houses).*

(*silent e* word lists)

Drop the “e”

When a word ends in a silent **e**, drop the **e** before adding a vowel ending (**ed**, **er**, **ing**, **y**, **en**).

ride~~e~~ + ing = riding

save~~e~~ + ing = saving

shine~~e~~ + y = shiny

bake~~e~~ + er = baker

Do not drop the final **e** when adding a consonant ending (e.g. like + ly = likely).

(*silent e* word lists)

“i” before “e,” except after “c”

The phonogram **ie** makes the long **e** sound as in:

chief, field, pier

The letters are reversed, however, when preceded by
the letter **c** as in:

receieve, ceieling, receiept

(**ie** word list)

Long Vowels and Open Syllables

A long vowel sound, when heard at the end of a syllable, is usually spelled with the single vowel letter.

fee-ver baa-by
roo-bot vaa-caa-tion
spii-der poo-taa-to

A syllable ending with a vowel is an “open” syllable, and the vowel is usually long; whereas, a syllable ending with a consonant is a “closed” syllable making the vowel short (e.g. sis-ter, pup-pet).

(y and er word lists)

Sound of “y” at the End of Words

The letter **y** makes the long **i** sound at the end of a one syllable word.

by, fly, try, spy, cry

The letter **y** makes the long **e** sound at the end of a mutli-syllable word.

baby, funny, candy, happy

(y word lists)

Change the “y” to “i”

When a word ends in a consonant + **y**, change the **y** to **i** before adding the following vowel endings: **es**, **ed**, **er**, and **est**.

berry + es = berries

carry + ed = carried

tiny + er = tinier

funny + est = funniest

sky + es = skies

try + ed = tried

Do not change the **y** to **i** if the ending is **ing**
(e.g. carrying, trying).

(y word lists)

Plural & Verb Forms for Words ending in “vowel + y”

When a noun ends with a vowel + **y**,
just add **s** to make its plural form.

chimneys, monkeys, toys, trays

When a verb ends with a vowel + **y**,
just add **s** to change the form of the verb.

I play. She plays.

I obey. He obeys.

(y word lists)

Soft “c” and Soft “g”

When **c** is followed by **e**, **i** or **y**, it makes its soft sound /s/.

cent, **c**ity, **c**ycle, fence**c**e, fancy**c**y

When **g** is followed by **e**, **i** or **y**, it often makes its soft sound /j/.

gentle, **g**iant, **g**ym, page**g**e, charge**g**e

Note: In the words “get,” “girl,” and “gift,” **g** makes its hard sound /g/.

(soft **c** and soft **g** word lists)