

★ Spelling Rules ★

"EI" or "IE" RULE

- Usually "i" before "e" except after "c" or as sounding like "a" as in "neighbor" or "weigh"
examples: piece believe chief receive
exceptions: either their science leisure

COMPOUND WORDS

- Use the full spelling of both words. Don't use a hyphen. **examples:** cupcake firewood

Plurals

- Adding "s" or "es"
Add "s" to most nouns and verbs. **examples:** cats plays
Add "es" if words end in "ch," "sh," "x," "s," or "z." **examples:** churches dishes foxes
- Word ending in "y"
If preceded by a consonant, change the "y" to "i" and add "es."
example: candy - candies
If preceded by a vowel, don't change the "y," just add "s." **example:** toys
- Word ending in "o"
Some words ending in "o" add "es." If preceded by a vowel, just add an "s."
examples: go - goes patio - patios
- Word ending in "f"
Change the "f" to "v" and add "es." **example:** leaf - leaves
- Exceptions:
Some nouns have different plurals. **example:** tooth - teeth
Some nouns don't change for plurals. **example:** deer - deer

POSSESSIVES

- Add apostrophe "s" ('s) to show possessive. **example:** bear - bear's
- Plural words ending in "s," the apostrophe is after the "s" (s').
example: kitten's bed - three kittens's beds

PREFIXES

- Prefixes just add on and never change the spelling.
examples: dislike indoors misspell repay

SUFFIXES

- In most cases, don't change the spelling, just add the suffix.
examples: walk - walker, walking, walked
- Words ending in "e" drop the "e" if the suffix begins with a vowel.
examples: save - saving love - lovable race - raced
- Keep the final "e" if the suffix begins with a consonant.
examples: care - careless safe - safely hope - hopeless
- Double the final consonant if the word has one syllable or the suffix begins with a vowel.
examples: sit - sitting nap - napped