



Building Blocks for Reading Success

Common Spelling Rules*

Floss Rule

In a one syllable word after a vowel
spell (f) ff, (l) ll, (s) ss, and (z) zz.
Jeff will pass Buzz.

Spelling /k/ at the beginning and middle of words

C is used to spell /k/ most of the time
K is used to spell /k/ only before e, i, or y
kit sky gasket

Spelling /k/ at the end of words

In a one syllable word, after a short vowel spell /k/ with a ck.
rock tack stick duck

When a consonant comes before the /k/, spell /k/ with a single *k*.
sank task milk tank

At the end of a multi-syllable word, spell /ik/ *ic*.
plastic picnic frantic hectic

Spelling of /ch/

When a one syllable word ends with /ch/ right after a short vowel, spell /ch/ with tch.
witch hatch crutch pitch

Spelling of /j/

Usually spell /j/ with a **j** at the beginning or middle of word.
Can spell /j/ with **g** before i, e, y – gin, gent, gym

exceptions – ject, jeans, jewel, jet, jelly, jeep, jerk, jealous, jingle

Never spell /j/ with a **j** at the end of a word. Final /j/ is spelled with a **ge** or **dge**

At the end of a one syllable word, after a short vowel, spell /j/ dge.
hedge, bridge, judge, lodge, ridge

*Adapted from: RAPS, Reading ASSIST® Institute, Wilmington, DE

Five Reasons for using final silent e

1. To make the vowel preceding long.
make like poke mule
2. English words cannot end with v or single u.
blue rescue love have
3. The silent e must follow c and g at the end of words to make their soft sounds /s/ and /j/.
dance hinge
4. Every syllable must have one vowel. In stable final syllables, silent e is added.
bun dle dou ble ti tle bu gle
5. Sometimes e is added for no reason at all!
sense engine rinse

Silent e Rule- Drop and Add

Words ending in silent e - drop the e before a suffix beginning with a vowel.

move + ed = moved nice + ly = nicely
impulse + ive = impulsive price + less = priceless

Rabbit Rule:

In a 2 syllable word, when there is only one consonant sound after a short vowel, the consonant is usually doubled.

button collect connect

Double and Add: The 1-1-1 Rule

When you add a suffix that begins with a vowel to a one-syllable word that contains one vowel followed by one consonant, double the consonant before you add the suffix.

dip + ed = dipped net + ed = netted gum + y = gummy

Change and Add: Adding a suffix to words ending in y

Words ending in **y** after a consonant, change the **y** to **i** before a suffix unless the suffix begins with **i**.
"Two i's are unwise!"

silly + est = silliest empty + ing = emptying
happy + ness = happiness marry + ing = marrying

rest + ing = resting sad + ness = sadness end + less = endless