

# Spelling Rules

Eight rules that solve most problems

- 1 — 'i' BEFORE 'e' except after 'c'. So: believe, friend. But: receive, ceiling. (Watch out: weird, neighbor are exceptions.)
- 2 — DROP the silent 'e' before adding a vowel-suffix. hope → hoping, bake → baking. But KEEP it before a consonant-suffix: hopeful, careful.
- 3 — DOUBLE the final consonant when adding -ing or -ed to a one-syllable word that ends in vowel-consonant. run → running, hop → hopped.
- 4 — Y to I — when a word ends in consonant + 'y', change 'y' to 'i' before adding most suffixes. happy → happiness, fly → flies.
- 5 — '-tion' or '-sion' for 'shun'? Use -tion most of the time. action, fraction, position. -sion comes after l, n, r and after vowels: tension, version, division.
- 6 — '-able' or '-ible'? -able usually attaches to FULL words: enjoyable. -ible attaches to roots that aren't full words: visible, possible.
- 7 — Plurals — most words add 's'. Words ending in 's, x, z, ch, sh' add 'es'. Words ending in consonant+y change to '-ies'.
- 8 — Silent letters happen — knife (k), wrist (w), comb (b), island (s), guess (u). Memorize them; rules don't always help.

