

# Spelling Rules

## Rules for “E”

1. Drop the silent *e* at the end of a word before adding a suffix beginning with a vowel. (*like, likable*)
2. Keep the silent *e* at the end of a word when adding a suffix beginning with a consonant. (*hope, hopeful*) Exceptions: *truly, judgment*
3. Keep the silent *e* at the end of a word if it is needed to keep a soft sound for *c* or *g*. (*notice, noticeable; courage, courageous*)
4. Use a silent *e* at the end of a word:
  - to make a short vowel long (*hat, hate*)
  - to make a final *c* or *g* soft (*force, large*)
  - to show that *s* or *z* is part of the root word (*dens, dense; pleas, please*)
  - to lengthen short words with significant meanings (*awe, ore*)
  - to ensure a vowel in the *le* suffix (*little*)
  - to prevent English words from ending in *i, u, or v* (*tie, have, antique*)

## Rules for other vowels

5. The vowels *a, e, o, or u* usually say their long sounds at the end of a syllable. (*ba/sic*)
6. The vowels *i* and *y* may have a long *i* sound, a short *i* sound or a long *e* sound at the end of a syllable. (*cry, silent, baby, initial*)
7. The vowels *i* and *o* may say their long sounds when followed by two consonants. (*find, bold*)
8. Change *y* to *i* at the end of a single vowel word before adding a suffix EXCEPT for the suffix *-ing*. (*cry, cries, crying*)
9. Use *i* before *e* (*ie*) except after *c* or when we say *a* as in neighbor and weigh.
10. Use *e* before *i* (*ei*) for the long *a* sound and when the long *e* sound follows *c*. (*receive, vein*) Exceptions: “*Either weird foreign sovereign forfeited leisure.*” and “*Neither heifer seized counterfeit protein.*”

## Rules for “sh”

11. *sh* may begin a word or end a syllable, but may not begin a syllable. (*shop, fish, creation*)  
Exception: the suffix *-ship* (*friendship*)
12. *ti, si* and *ci* cannot be used at the beginning of a word for /sh/, but may be used at the beginning of a syllable. (*shell, patience, precious, mission*)

## Miscellaneous Rules

13. The letter *q* is always followed by *u*. (*question*)

14. When **c** or **g** precede **e**, **i**, or **y**, they usually say their soft sound /s/ or /j/. (*circle, cylinder, center; gem, giant, gypsy*)
15. English words do not end in **i**, **u**, or **v**. Silent **e** is often added. (*true, love, die*)
16. **ck** and **dge** may be used at the end of a short word when a single vowel says its short sound. (*duck, badge*)
17. When **or** follows **w** it usually says /er/. (*work, word*)
18. **Wr** and **kn** may only be used at the beginning of a word. (*knife, wrap*)
19. The consonants **f**, **l**, and **s** are usually doubled at the end of single syllable words following a single vowel. (*ball, toss, off*)
20. Drop the second **l** from the words *all*, *till*, and *full* when adding them to other syllables. (*almost, until, wonderful, fulfill*)
21. Use **c** after **x** if the word contains an /s/ sound after the /ks/. Never use **s**. (*excellent, excite*)
22. Double the final consonant when adding a suffix beginning with a vowel if all these are true:
  - A. the last syllable of the word is accented
  - B. the consonant is preceded by a single vowel and
  - C. the single vowel has a short sound. (*admit, admitted, admitting*)
23. Every syllable must have at least one vowel. Silent **e** is often added to ensure the vowel. (*table*)
24. Use **ay** for words ending with the long /a/ sound. (*may, say*)
25. Use **ck** for the /k/ sound after a single vowel which says its short sound in words with one syllable. (*tick, tock*)
26. Use **cc** for the /k/ sound to protect the short vowel unless **e**, **i**, or **y** follow, then use **ck**. (*occupy, hiccups; picnicking, frolicked*)