

## Common Spelling Rules Help Guide

There are 6 common rules to think about when trying to add a suffix. This is a guide for all year groups. Some suffixes given in examples, may not be learnt in your child's year group but this is a useful document to refer to as a general guide. There are also exceptions to rules so you should still 'have-a-go' to see what looks right and check if you are unsure with someone who knows, or with a dictionary.

Adding suffixes- rules to consider:																							
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Double the consonant</u></b></p> <p>Applies to short sound consonant endings or two syllable ending in consonants like 'l'</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>fat</td><td>+er</td><td>fatter</td></tr> <tr><td>mud</td><td>+y</td><td>muddy</td></tr> <tr><td>stop</td><td>+ed</td><td>stopped</td></tr> <tr><td>swim</td><td>+ing</td><td>swimming</td></tr> <tr><td>fulfil</td><td>+ment</td><td>fulfilment</td></tr> </table>			fat	+er	fatter	mud	+y	muddy	stop	+ed	stopped	swim	+ing	swimming	fulfil	+ment	fulfilment						
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Drop the final 'e'</u></b></p> <p>This is common when the 'e' is silent This is especially common when adding 'ly'</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>drive</td><td>+ing</td><td>driving</td></tr> <tr><td>make</td><td>+er</td><td>maker</td></tr> <tr><td>adore</td><td>+able</td><td>adorable</td></tr> <tr><td>cuddle</td><td>+ly</td><td>cuddly</td></tr> <tr><td>gentle</td><td>+ly</td><td>gently</td></tr> </table> <p>There are exceptions, where we keep the 'e' even though it is silent, such as careful. Other exceptions, when adding 'ly', include: lately, lovely or homely.</p>			drive	+ing	driving	make	+er	maker	adore	+able	adorable	cuddle	+ly	cuddly	gentle	+ly	gently						
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Keep the y</u></b></p> <p>If the suffix starts with an 'i' or when a word ends with a vowel and 'y'</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>reply</td><td>+ing</td><td>replying</td></tr> <tr><td>marry</td><td>+ing</td><td>marrying</td></tr> <tr><td>joy</td><td>+ful</td><td>joyful</td></tr> <tr><td>buy</td><td>+er</td><td>buyer</td></tr> <tr><td>boy</td><td>+s</td><td>boys</td></tr> <tr><td>enjoy</td><td>+ed</td><td>enjoyed</td></tr> <tr><td>play</td><td>+ing</td><td>playing</td></tr> </table> <p>There are unusual exceptions such as skiing. Other exceptions include words that change in the past tense such as 'say' which becomes 'said'.</p>			reply	+ing	replying	marry	+ing	marrying	joy	+ful	joyful	buy	+er	buyer	boy	+s	boys	enjoy	+ed	enjoyed	play	+ing	playing
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Keep the final e</u></b></p> <p>When words end 'ee' or 'ye', unless your suffix starts with e or when words end with 'ce' or 'ge', if your suffix starts with a or o</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>agree</td><td>+s</td><td>agrees</td></tr> <tr><td>eye</td><td>+ing</td><td>eyeing</td></tr> <tr><td>use</td><td>+ful</td><td>useful</td></tr> <tr><td>like</td><td>+able</td><td>Likeable</td></tr> <tr><td>courage</td><td>+ous</td><td>courageous</td></tr> <tr><td>peace</td><td>+ful</td><td>peaceful</td></tr> </table>			agree	+s	agrees	eye	+ing	eyeing	use	+ful	useful	like	+able	Likeable	courage	+ous	courageous	peace	+ful	peaceful			
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Change the y to an i</u></b></p> <p>If the word ends in y, when you add a suffix the 'y' often changes.</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>plenty</td><td>+ful</td><td>plentiful</td></tr> <tr><td>try</td><td>+ed</td><td>tried</td></tr> <tr><td>cry</td><td>+er</td><td>crier</td></tr> <tr><td>dreamy</td><td>+ly</td><td>dreamily</td></tr> </table> <p>There are exceptions for example when adding 'ness' such as dryness. The keep the y rule stands with words that end vowel and y</p>			plenty	+ful	plentiful	try	+ed	tried	cry	+er	crier	dreamy	+ly	dreamily									
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Changing ie to y</u></b></p> <p>If the word ends in 'ie', when you add the 'ing' suffix you change the 'ie' to 'y'</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>untie</td><td>+ing</td><td>untying</td></tr> <tr><td>lie</td><td>+ing</td><td>lying</td></tr> </table>			untie	+ing	untying	lie	+ing	lying															
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### Other tips:

- When adding 'ly', remember if your word ends in 'ic' you add 'ally' instead. For example: tragic- tragically and magic- magically.
- It is very rare to see, next to each other, two lots of the letter 'i'. When you 'have-a-go' to test out spellings, if you see two lots of the letter 'i' together, it is unlikely to be correct.
- When changing something to the past tense, remember that you do not always use +ed. There are lots of words that change such as sit- sat and sleep- slept.