

Suffix Spelling Rules

What are Suffixes?

Suffixes are added to the end of words to make new words. There are two types of suffixes: vowel and consonant.

Vowel Suffixes

Vowel suffixes include endings such as -ed, -er, -es, and -ing.

clapped, teacher, rashes,
lifting

Consonant Suffixes

Consonant suffixes include endings such as -s, -less, -ness, -ment, and -ly.

goals**s**, use**less**, sad**ness**,
content**ment**, friend**ly**

Rule 1: Double the Consonant

When a word ends in a short vowel sound and a single consonant, you double the last letter. Examples of

this rule are:

Fit + er = fitter

Mud + y = muddy

Shop + ed = shopped

Swim + ing = swimming

Rule 1: Double the Consonant

When a word has more than one syllable and ends with the letter "l" you will double the "l" when adding the suffix. Examples include:

Cancel + ed = cancelled

Propel + er = propeller

Compel + ing = compelling

Fulfil + ment = fulfillment

Rule 1: Double the Consonant

Keep in mind that the doubling rule does not apply if the word ends in "w," "x" or "y."

throw + ing = throwing

box + ed = boxed

cry + ing = crying

Rule 2: Drop the Final E

When a word ends in a silent letter "e," drop that final "e" if the suffix you are using begins with a vowel.

Drive + ing = driving

Hope + ing = hoping

Make + er = maker

Adore + able = adorable

Use + er = user

Rule 3: Keep the Final E

When the word ends in the letters "ce" or "ge," you will keep the final "e" if the suffix begins with the letters "a" or "o."

Advantage + ous = advantageous

Change + able = changeable

Courage + ous = courageous

Service + able = serviceable

Rule 3: Keep the Final E

You will also keep the final "e" in the following examples:

Like + able = likeable

Size + able = sizeable

Care + ful = careful

Use + ful = useful

Peace + ful = peaceful

Rule 3: Keep the Final E

Remember to keep the "e" if using the suffix -ly. For example:

Late + ly = lately

Rare + ly = rarely

Love + ly = lovely

Home + ly = homely

Definite + ly = definitely

Rule 3: Keep the Final E

Lastly, you will also keep the "e" at the end of the word if it ends in "ee" or "ye."

Agree + ing = agreeing

Decree + ing = decreeing

Eye + ing = eyeing

Foresee + ing = foreseeing

See + ing = seeing

Rule 4: Keep the Y

When the word ends with "y" and has a vowel before it you keep the "y."

Boy + s = boys

Enjoy + ed = enjoyed

Play + ing = playing

Buy + er = buyer

Joy + ful = joyful

Rule 4: Keep the Y

Exceptions to this rule are:

Pay + ed = paid

Say + ed = said

Rule 4: Keep the Y

Another time to keep the "y" is if the suffix starts with the letter "i."

Worry + ing = worrying

Copy + ing = copying

Carry + ing = carrying

Supply + ing = supplying

Marry + ing = marrying

Rule 5: Change the Y to an I

When the word has a consonant before the "y," you will change the "y" to a letter "i," then add the suffix.

Beauty + ful = beautiful

Baby + s = babies

Army + s = armies

Duty + ful = dutiful

Happy + ness = happiness

Rule 5: Change the Y to an I

Keep in mind that there are exceptions to this rule, such as:

Dry + er = dryer

Baby + hood = babyhood

Lady + ship = ladyship

Rule 6: Changing IE to Y

When a word ends in "ie," change the ending to a "y" when you add the suffix -ing.

Die + ing = dying

Tie + ing = tying

Untie + ing = untying

Lie + ing = lying

Vie + ing = vying











