

Spelling Rules and Generalizations

Grade 1

-ff -ll -ss -zz (Floss Rule)

When a one syllable word ends in the /f/, /l/, /s/ or /z/ sound, double the final *f*, *l*, *s*, or *z* after the short vowel.

Examples: *stuff, bill, mess, buzz*

c- k-

Use *c* before a consonant or vowels *a*, *o*, and *u*. Use *k* before the vowels *e*, *i*, and *y*.

Examples: *cat, cot, cut, key, kiss*

-k -ck

When a one-syllable word ends in the /k/ sound, use *-ck* after a short vowel.

Examples: *peck, sick, rack*

However, use a *k* after a consonant, long vowel sound and after two vowels.

Examples: *milk, rake, speak*

-ch -tch

When a one syllable word ends in the /ch/ sound, use *-tch* after a short vowel, use *-ch* otherwise.

Examples: *hatch, witch*

Exceptions: *rich, which, much, such*

-ge -dge

When a one-syllable word ends in the /j/ sound, use *-dge* after a short vowel, *-ge* after a consonant or long vowel.

Examples: *hedge, badge, fringe, huge*

Doubling Rule (1-1-1)

If a one-syllable base word ends in one consonant with one short vowel before it, double the final consonant of the base word when adding a suffix that begins with a vowel. Do not double the final consonant if the suffix begins with a consonant.

Examples: *mad + est = maddest, mad + ly = madly*

Doubling Rule for Two-Syllable Words

Two-syllable words double the final consonant before a suffix that begins with a vowel if the second syllable of the word is CVC, AND if the stress (accent) falls on the second syllable.

Examples: *admit + ed = admitted, refer + ing = referring, suffer + ing = suffering, limit + ed = limited*

Silent E Rule

Words ending in silent *e* drop the *e* before a suffix beginning with a vowel, but do not drop the *e* before a suffix beginning with a consonant.

Examples: *hope, hoping, hopeful*

Y Rule

Final *y* after a consonant changes to *i* before any suffix except one beginning with *i* (*-ing, -ist*)

Examples: *copy/copies/copying/copyist*

Plurals

Add *-es* to words ending with *s, ss, sh, ch, or x*

Examples: *passes, slashes, churches, foxes*

Change *f* or *fe* to *v* and add *es*

Examples: *knife/knives, half/halves*

Consonant-le Doubling

In words ending in *-ble, -tle, -fle or -dle*, after a short vowel, add another letter.

Examples: *bubble, puddle, little, ruffle, juggle*

i Before e Rule

i is usually before *e*, except after *c*, or when sounded like long *a*.

Examples: *relief, shield, fierce, ceiling, receipt, receive, freight, sleigh*