

DIRECTIONS: Do the practice exercises in each section below.

PART 1 How do you spell words with *ei* or *ie*?

The easy way to remember which order to put *ei/ie* in is to learn

Rule:

“I before E except after C or when sounded like A as in neighbour or weigh”

For example, *conceive* and *yield* are spelled correctly in this sentence by following the rule above.

There are some exceptions to this rule, like *either*, *neither*, *height*, *seize*, *leisure*, *weird*, *science*, and *protein*. You must memorize these exceptions.

Spell each of the following correctly.

1. On the baseball team I play on the outf ____ ld.
2. The man was in court because they thought he was a th ____ f.
3. I bel ____ ve you already asked that question yesterday.
4. My fr ____ nd is coming into town on Friday.
5. Jane was mad at Tom because he dec ____ ved her.
6. My nephew is ____ ght years old.
7. I had to decide between two choices, and I didn't like ____ ther one.
8. The new hotel downtown soars to a great h ____ ght.
9. The Westbank Indian Band ch ____ f said treaty negotiations were stalled.
10. What do you for l ____ sure activities?

PART 2 How do you deal with a final *e* when adding a suffix to a word?

Rule:

Drop the final *e* when the suffix you are adding starts with a vowel, but keep the final *e* when the suffix you are adding begins with a consonant.

For example, *hate* + *ing* becomes *hating*, while *face* + *less* becomes *faceless*.

There are some exceptions to this rule. Face + al = facial, province + al = provincial, space + ous = spacious, notice + able = noticeable, manage + able = manageable, courage + ous = courageous, argue + ment = argument, due + ly = duly, nine + th = ninth, and true + ly = truly.

Join each of the following and spell them correctly.

1. Love + able =
2. Argue + ment =
3. True + ly =
4. Province + ally =
5. Manage + ment =
6. Courage + ously =
7. Race + ing =
8. Furtive + ly =
9. Hate + ful =
10. Take + ing =

PART 3 How do you add a suffix to a word ending in a consonant?

Rule:

When the suffix you are adding begins with a consonant, leave the final consonant in the word alone, but when the suffix you are adding begins with a vowel, *usually* you double the final consonant in the word.

For example, commit + ment = commitment, but commit + ed = committed.

There are exceptions (aren't there always!). Don't double the last consonant if the accent is not on the last syllable like with profit + ed = profited. Also, words ending in a single vowel followed by an *l* have the *l* doubled before adding the suffix, like with travel + ing = travelling but veer + ing = veering.

1. Defer + ing =
2. Shallow + ness =
3. Open + ness =
4. Begin + er =
5. Unravel + ing =
6. Frail + ty =
7. Dimwit + ed =
8. Profit + able =
9. Fling + ing =
10. Steer + ing =

PART 4 How do you add a suffix to a word ending in y?

Rule:

If the word ends in a consonant followed by *y*, change the *y* to *i* and add the suffix. If the word ends in a vowel followed by *y*, keep the *y*.

There are exceptions (sigh!). Pity + ous = piteous, and plenty + ous = plenteous. Also, always keep the *y* when the suffix you are adding is *ing*, so pray + ing = praying.

1. Merry + ment =
2. Comedy + s =
3. Donkey + s =
4. Happy + est =
5. Hilly + est =
6. Hairy + est =
7. Weary + ing =
8. Scary + est =
9. Wordy + est =
10. Trendy + est =

PART 4 How do you add *ly* to a word that already ends in *l*?

Rule:

Just add the suffix to the word. No other changes are required!

Believe it or not, there are *no* exceptions to this rule!

For example, wonderful + ly = wonderfully.

1. Unusual + ly =
2. Hopeful + ly =
3. Tasteful + ly =
4. Habitual + ly =
5. Consensual + ly =

PART 5 How do you add the prefix *mis* or *dis* to the beginning of a word?

Rule:

Just add the prefix to the word. No other changes are required!

Mis + demeanour = misdemeanour

There are no exceptions to this rule. (There, wasn't that easy?)

1. Mis + spoke =
2. Dis + agree =
3. Dis + array =
4. Mis + heard =
5. Mis + stepped =
6. Dis + enchanted =
7. Mis + laid =
8. Mis + appropriated =

PART 6 When do you add *s* to form a plural of a noun?

Rule:

For most nouns, simply add *s* to form the plural, including nouns ending in a vowel followed by an *o*.

Singular	Plural		
chair	chairs		
dog	dogs		
table	tables		
radio	radios		
stereo	stereos		
video	videos		
zoo	zoos		
yard	_____	loin	_____
envelope	_____	collar	_____
clamp	_____	shroud	_____
rodeo	_____	studio	_____

PART 7 When do you add *es* to form a plural of a noun?

Rule:

In words where the *s* sound isn't clear unless an extra syllable is pronounced, add *es* to form the plural.

Singular	Plural		
bench	benches		
caress	caresses		
prefix	prefixes		
trench	_____	hush	_____
caress	_____	church	_____
appendix	_____	larch	_____

PART 8 Are there exceptions to the rules in Parts 6 and 7?

Of course there are! You must memorize the spelling of these plurals:

Singular	Plural
auto	autos
piano	pianos
tomato	tomatoes
potato	potatoes
tornado	tornadoes

PART 9 How do you form a plural when the noun ends in *f* or *fe*?

Rule:

When a noun ends in *f* or *fe*, change them into a *v* and add *es* to the end to form the plural.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
leaf	_____	thief	_____
calf	_____	belief	_____
knife	_____		

As always, there are exceptions for you to memorize.

Singular	Plural
hoof	hooves or hoofs
roof	roofs
belief	beliefs

PART 10 Putting your new skills to work

The following paragraph has many errors in it. Circle each one, and then correct it in the space at the bottom.

I have long beleived that the hieght of rudeness is truley reached by those people whose car stereoes are turned up so loudly that an assault is commited on the eardrums of other people nearby. Despite these killer stereos being one of the trendyest things for youth today to have, I feel that they should have to turn the music down when others are around. Hopfully you are in agreement with me and are taking this issue as seriously as I do. There is nothing worse than waiting in traffic and haveing someone pull up beside you with the music cranked so loudly that your newly purchased tomatos are jumping out of the grocery bag, while you stare at them in disbeleif. Surely something can be done about these thiefs of silence?

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|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 12. _____ |