

# Some Basic Spelling Rules

## 1.) SPELLING RULES FOR THE PRESENT PROGRESSIVE TENSE

a.) Add –*ing* to the base form of the verb.

**read - reading, stand - standing, jump – jumping**

b.) If a verb ends in a silent –*e*, drop the final -*e* and add –*ing*.

**leave - leaving, take - taking, receive – receiving**

c.) In a one-syllable word, if the last three letters are consonant-vowel-consonant combination (CVC), double the last consonant before adding –ing.

**sit - sitting, run - running, hop - hopping**

However, do not double the last consonant in word that end in *w, x,* or *y*.

**sew - sewing, fix - fixing, enjoy – enjoying**

d.) In words of two or more syllables that end in a consonant-vowel-consonant combination, double the last consonant only if the last syllable is stressed.

**admit - admitting, regret – regretting**

e.) If a verb ends in –*ie*, change the –*ie* to *y* before adding -*ing*.

**die - dying**

## 2.) SPELLING RULES FOR THE SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

a.) Add –s for most verbs

**work - works, buy - buys, ride - rides, return – returns**

b.) Add –*es* for words that end in –*ch*, -*s* , -*sh*, -*x*, or –*z*.

**watch - watches, pass - passes, rush - rushes, relax - relaxes, buzz – buzzes**

c.) Change the –*y* to –*i* and add –*es* when the base form ends in a consonant +*y*.

**study - studies, hurry - hurries, dry – dries**

Do not change the –*y* when the base form ends in a vowel +*y*. Add –*s*

**play - plays, enjoy – enjoys**

d.) A few verbs have irregular forms.

**be - is, do - does, go- goes, have – has**

## 3.) SPELLING RULES FOR SIMPLE PAST TENSE OF REGULAR VERBS

a.) If the verb ends in a consonant, add –*ed*.

**return - returned, help - helped, cook – cooked**

b.) If the verb ends in –*e*, add –*d*.

**live - lived, create - created, die – died**

c.) In one-syllable words, if the verb ends in a consonant-vowel-consonant combination (CVC), double the last consonant and add -*ed*.

**hop - hopped, rub – rubbed**

However, do not double one-syllable words ending in –*w*, -*x*, or –*y*.

**bow - bowed, play - played, mix – mixed**

d.) In words of two or more syllables that end in consonant-vowel-consonant combination, double the last consonant only if the last syllable is stressed.

**prefer - preferred** (The last syllable is stressed.)

**visit - visited** (The last syllable isn’t stressed)

e.) If the verb ends in a consonant, + *y*, change the -*y* to -*i* and –*ed*.

**worry - worried, copy – copied**

f.) If the verb ends in a vowel +*y*, add -*ed*. (Do not change the –*y* to –*i*.)

**play - played, annoy - annoyed**

Exception: **pay - paid, lay - laid, say – said**

## 4.) SPELLING RULES FOR THE COMPARATIVE (-ER) & SUPERLATIVES (-EST) ADJECTIVES

a.) Add –*er* to one-syllable adjectives to form the comparative. Add -*est* to one-syllable adjectives to form the superlative.

**cheap - cheaper - cheapest, bright - brighter – brightest**

b.) If the adjective ends in –*e*, add –*r* or –*st*.

**nice - nicer – nicest**

c.) If the adjective ends in a consonant +*y*, change to *y* to *i* before you add –*er* or –*est*.

**pretty - prettier - prettiest**.

Exception: **shy - shyer – shyest**

d.) If the adjective ends in a consonant-vowel-consonant combination (CVC), double the final consonant before adding –*er* or –*est*.

**big - bigger – biggest**

However, do not double the consonant in words ending in –*w* or –*y*.

**slow - slower - slowest, coy - coyer – coyest**

## 5.) SPELLING RULES FOR ADVERBS

a.) Add –*ly* to the corresponding adjectives

**nice - nicely, quiet - quietly, quick - quickly, beautiful - beautifully**

b.**)** If the adjective ends in consonant +*y*, change the *y* to *i* before adding –*ly*

**easy – easily**

c.) If the adjective ends in –*le*, drop the -*e* and add –*y*.

**possible – possibly**

However, do not drop the –*e* for other adjectives ending in –*e*.

**extreme – extremely**

Exception: **true – truly**

d.) If the adjective ends in –*ic*, add -*ally*.

**basic - basically, fantastic - fantastically, terrific - terrifically**

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