

# Spelling Rules

1. **Double S, F, or L at the End of Words:** At the end of one syllable words, usually double the letters S, F, or L right after a vowel. The rule is the same if it is a compound word or if suffixes or prefixes are added to the one-syllable word.
2. **Double Consonants in the Middle of Words:** Usually double a consonant in the middle of a word if you need to close a syllable to keep the short vowel sound.  

When a syllable ends with a vowel, it is an open syllable, and the vowel is usually long ("says its name").  
A closed syllable ends with a consonant.
3. **K, C, or CK at the End of Words:** For the /k/ sound at the end of words, use CK after a short vowel in one-syllable words. Use K after a consonant, a long vowel, or the phonogram OO. Use C at the end of multi-syllable words. The rule is the same if it is a compound word or if suffixes or prefixes are added to the one-syllable word.
4. **K or C at the Beginning or Middle of Words:** At the beginning or middle of a word, usually use K for the /k/ sound before E, I, or Y. Use C in front of any other letters.
5. **111 Rule:** If a word is 1 syllable, has only 1 vowel, and ends with just 1 consonant, then double that consonant before adding a vowel suffix. Otherwise, do not double the consonant. Note: In words with two vowels and then a consonant, do not double the consonant (e.g., cooked, heatable). In words ending with a phonogram (two letters that make one sound such as EW or OW), do not double the consonant (e.g. chewable, bowed).
6. **Plural Nouns:** We usually make a noun plural by adding S. But we add ES to words that end with SH, CH, Z, X, or S. We drop the Y and add IES to words that end with a consonant + Y.
7. **CH or TCH:** If the sound /CH/ follows a short vowel sound, usually use TCH; otherwise, use CH.
8. **DGE:** If /j/ follows a short vowel sound, it is usually spelled with DGE.
9. **Consonant + LE:** Every syllable has to have a vowel, so a silent E is added to syllables ending with a CONSONANT + L. (Example: whistle, not whistl)
10. **Drop the E Rule:** If a base word ends in final silent E, drop the E before adding a vowel suffix. (Example: bake - baking) But do not drop the E when adding ABLE to words ending in CE or GE. (Examples, change - changeable, notice - noticeable)
11. **Changing Y to I:** Words that end with CONSONANT + Y must have the Y changed to an I before adding any suffix: (Examples: happy-happiness, beauty-beautiful, plenty-plentiful)
12. **Words That End with V:** A silent E is added to words to prevent them from ending in V because English words do not end with the letter V.
13. **Singular Words That End with S:** When a word ends in S but is not plural, usually add a silent E.