

The Answer Choices Are Spelling Rules About What To Do Before Adding Suffixes To A Base Word That Ends

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Understanding how to correctly add suffixes to base words is essential for proper spelling and grammar. When a base word ends with certain letters or letter combinations, specific spelling rules must be followed to maintain correct spelling and pronunciation. These rules help avoid common errors such as doubling consonants unnecessarily or dropping necessary letters. In this comprehensive guide, we explore the key spelling rules you need to know before adding suffixes to a base word that ends in particular letters. Whether you're a student, educator, or language enthusiast, mastering these rules will enhance your spelling accuracy and confidence.

Common Spelling Rules Before Adding Suffixes

Adding suffixes can sometimes change the spelling of a word, especially when the base word ends with particular letters. Recognizing these patterns ensures correct spelling and pronunciation. The main rules can be summarized as follows:

- 1. When a word ends with a silent 'e'**
- 2. When a word ends with a consonant + 'y'**
- 3. When a word ends with a single vowel followed by a consonant**
- 4. When a word ends with 'c'**
- 5. When a word ends with 'f' or 'fe'**
- 6. When a word ends with 'ie'**

Let's delve into each of these rules with detailed explanations and examples.

1. Handling Words That End with a Silent 'e'

Many English words end with a silent 'e'. When adding suffixes, whether to keep or drop the 'e' depends on the suffix and the resulting pronunciation.

Rules for Words Ending with a Silent 'e'

1. Drop the silent 'e' before adding suffixes that begin with a vowel (except when adding '-ee', '-oe', or '-ye').
2. Keep the 'e' when adding suffixes that begin with a consonant or when the suffix starts with a vowel but the meaning demands retention of the 'e' (e.g., 'hope' + '-ful' = 'hopeful').

Examples

• Drop the 'e':

- write + -ing = **writing**
- move + -ed = **moved**
- hope + -ful = **hopeful**

• Keep the 'e':

- hope + -ing = **hoping**
- change + -able = **changeable**

Note: Some words retain the 'e' because dropping it would alter pronunciation or meaning.

2. Words Ending with a Consonant + 'Y'

Adding suffixes to words ending with a consonant + 'y' involves changing the 'y' to 'i' before adding certain suffixes.

Rules for Consonant + 'Y'

1. Change the 'y' to 'i' when adding most suffixes, except when the suffix begins with a vowel (e.g., '-ing').
2. Do not change the 'y' if the suffix begins with a vowel.

Examples

- **Change 'y' to 'i':**

- happy + -ness = **happiness**
- cry + -ed = **Cried**
- study + -ed = **studied**

- **No change when suffix starts with a vowel:**

- try + -ing = **trying**
- fly + -ing = **flying**

Tip: Always check the suffix's initial letter to determine if the 'y' should change.

3. Words Ending with a Single Vowel Followed by a Consonant

When adding suffixes to short words ending with a single vowel followed by a consonant, doubling the final consonant may be necessary.

Rules for Doubling the Final Consonant

1. Double the final consonant if the word is one syllable or has stress on the last syllable.
2. Only double if the consonant is preceded by a single vowel.
3. Do not double if the word ends with a consonant cluster (more than one consonant).

Examples

- **Double the consonant:**

- run + -ing = **running**
- big + -er = **bigger**
- stop + -ed = **stopped**

- **No doubling:**

- visit + -ed = **visited**
- begin + -ing = **beginning**

Note: This rule primarily applies to one-syllable words or words with stress on the last syllable.

4. Words Ending with 'c'

When adding suffixes to words ending with 'c', spelling rules depend on the suffix.

Rules for Words Ending with 'c'

1. Use a 'ck' after the 'c' before suffixes that begin with a vowel, especially '-ing' or '-ed'.
2. Add 'ce' when the suffix begins with a vowel and the 'c' needs to have a soft sound (commonly in words ending with 'ic' or 'ic' adjectives).

Examples

- Double 'c' with '-ing':

- pic + -king = **picking**
- track + -ed = **tracked**

- Adding 'ce' before suffixes:

- pic + -ture = **picture**
- panic + -ing = **panicking**

Note: Keep in mind the pronunciation and whether the 'c' should be hard or soft.

5. Words Ending with 'f' or 'fe'

When adding suffixes to words ending with 'f' or 'fe', spelling changes often

occur.

Rules for Words Ending with 'f' or 'fe'

1. Change the 'f' or 'fe' to 'v' before adding suffixes like '-ed', '-ing', '-es'.
2. In some cases, keep the 'f' or 'fe' if the word is an exception or if the suffix begins with a consonant.

Examples

- **Change 'f'/'fe' to 'v':**

- laugh + -ed = **laughed**
- drive + -ing = **driving**
- scarf + -s = **scarfs** (rare, but acceptable in some contexts)

- **Keep the 'f' or 'fe':**

- roof + -ed = **roofed**
- gulf + -s = **gulfs**

Note: Always check for exceptions, as some words do not follow this rule.

6. Words Ending with 'ie'

When adding suffixes to words ending with 'ie', rule depends on the suffix.

Rules for Words Ending with 'ie'