

Spelling Rules Revision Sheet

Plurals

When to add 's' or 'es'

Add 's' to most nouns and verbs. For example: cows, jumps and teachers

Add 'es' to words ending in: 's', 'ss', 'z', 'x', 'sh' or 'ch'. For example: boxes, princesses, brushes, buzzes, churches

Words ending in 'y'

If the letter before the 'y' is a consonant, then change the 'y' to an 'i' and add 'es'.

For example: butterfly → butterflies

If the letter before the 'y' is a vowel, do not change the 'y', just add 's'

For example: boy → boys

Words ending in 'o'

For some words that end in 'o' add 'es'. If there is a vowel before the 'o' then add 's'.

For example: mango → mangoes ratio → ratios

Words ending in 'f'

Change the 'f' to 'v' and add 'es' For example: wolf → wolves

EXCEPTIONS: Some nouns to not change for plurals, for example: lamb

Some nouns have different words for plurals, for example: tooth → teeth

Rules for 'ie' and 'ei'

 Put 'i' before 'e' for example: believe, grieve, chief, piece. Exceptions: leisure, either, their

 Put 'i' before 'e' except after 'c' for example: receive. Exceptions: science

Prefixes

Prefixes such as 're', 'mis', 'dis' do not change the spelling, just add them on. For example:

like → dislike spell → misspell pay → repay

Suffixes - 'ed', 'ing', 'ly', 'less', 'able'

 For most words, the spelling does not change, just add the suffix. For example:

walk → walked, walking, walker

- 🐱 If the word ends in 'e', drop the 'e' if the suffix begins with a vowel. For example:
love → lovable race → racing
- 🐱 If the word ends in 'e', keep the 'e' if the suffix begins with a consonant. For example: care → careless safe → safely hope → hopeless
- 🐱 If the word has one syllable and the suffix begins with a vowel, double the consonant. For example: sit → sitting nap → napping
- 🐱 If the word has one syllable and the suffix begins with a consonant, then just add the suffix. For example: shy → shyly

Using an apostrophe (') in spelling

- 🐱 Add an apostrophe 's' (s) to singular nouns to show possession or ownership.
- 🐱 Add the apostrophe after the 's' in plural nouns to show possession or ownership.
For example: These are the cat's toys.
 These are the four cats' toys.
- 🐱 Use an apostrophe (') to replace a letter or letters in words to shorten them, such as: 'a' in 'am' and 'are', 'i' in the word 'is', 'o' in the word 'not', 'wi' in the word 'will'. The shortened words are then joined to the word before.
For example:
I am → I'm
They are → They're
It is → It's
Do not → Don't
We will → We'll

Tip:

Read as much as you can! Story books, novels, newspapers and even comic books are all excellent reading material.

Keep a notebook and a dictionary handy when reading. If you find any new words, record the new words and their meanings in your notebook. Use your new words in your sentences and essays where appropriate.