

Spelling

Hints



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1. Introduction

Spelling can be difficult. Don't get stressed about it though! Spelling is not a measure of how clever we are and, nowadays, we can use ICT to help us.

There are other tricks we can use to help us spell... this booklet shares some of these. You may have come across them before... we have put them together in this book so you can have another look.

By understanding letter patterns and common spelling choices you can learn to problem solve when you get stuck with a new or tricky word.

This might not make sense yet... but don't give up. The more you look at letter patterns the more you will come to understand spelling.

You may never become an expert (and you probably don't want to!) but you may feel better about spelling and reading and more confident with tricky words.

2. Letters -vowels and consonants

Vowels

angry

elephants

in

orange

underpants

(y is the part timer)

All the other letters are
called **consonants**



Vowels can have a **short sound** as in cat and apple.
Vowels can also have a **long sound** as in cake and mail.

Every word or syllable in English has at least one vowel sound in it.

3. Syllables

- Syllables can be used to help you to spell and read words.
- A syllable is a single unit of the written or spoken word, an unbroken sound used to make up words.
- Syllables **can be counted** by tapping out each unit of sound in the word



or



Put your hand under your chin, when your chin drops you are saying a vowel sound. Each vowel sound equals one syllable.

Count how many times your chin drops in one word to count how many syllables it has.



Examples of words with:

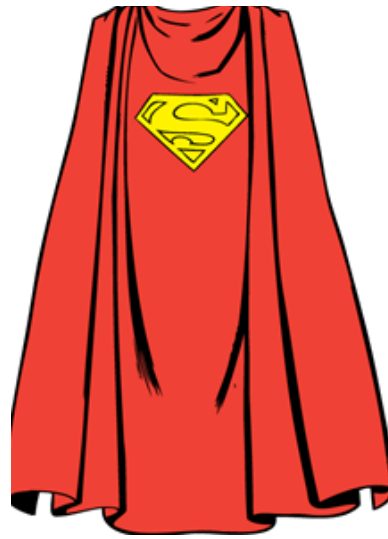
- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1 syllable | <i>cat, dog, bike</i> |
| 2 syllables | <i>mag-ic, tab-let, pas-ta</i> |
| 3 syllables | <i>fan-tas-tic, bi-cy-cle, cin-e-ma</i> |
| 4 syllables | <i>i-den-tic-al</i> |

4. Silent *e*

Letter *e* at the end of a word
changes the vowel sound
from a short vowel to a long vowel



cap



cape

/a_e/

safe

cake

snake

plane

crane

/i-e/

side

nine

ripe

smile

crime

/o_e/

home

nose

close

broke

phone

/u_e/

rude

June

rule

prune

flute

5. Letter c in front of silent e at the end of a word has a /s/ sound (like /s/ in hiss)

/ace/ & /a_ ce/

/ice / & /i_ ce/

ace

race

ice

price

face

grace

dice



slice

lace

space



mice

spice

pace

dance

nice

twice

place

glance

rice

/e_ ce /

pence

fence



6. Letter g in front of silent e at the end of a word, the g sounds like the /j/ in jug

/age/ & /a_ ge/

/i_ ge /

/uge/

age

range

hinge

bulge

page

change

cringe

cage



fringe

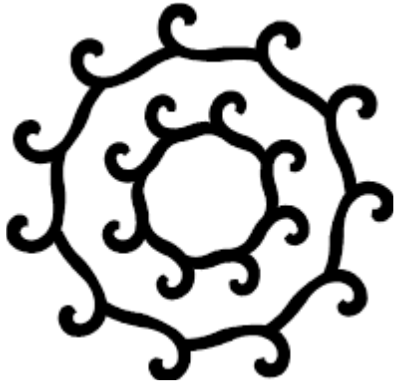


rage

wage

7. /k/ sound at the start of a word

Use curly **c** before **a, o, u**



cute

cold

cat

cupid

cathedral

cost

Use kicking **k** before **i, e**



kilt

kennel

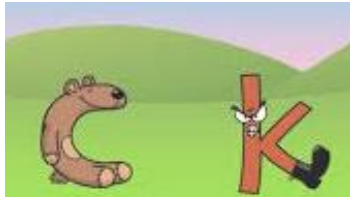
kick

kitchen

ketchup

There are words that don't fit this hint... such as brand names e.g. Kit Kat or words that are not English e.g. kangaroo and kayak.

8. Sound /k/ at the end of a word



Use **ck** at the end of one syllable words, immediately after a short vowel:

back, **peck**, **lick**, **block** and **duck**.



Use **k** after a final consonant or vowel digraph

Consonant - **bank**, **desk**, **milk**, **trunk**

Digraph - **seek**, **leak**, **soak**, **book**



Use **c** at the end of words with more than one syllable:

panic **toxic** **fantastic** **havoc**



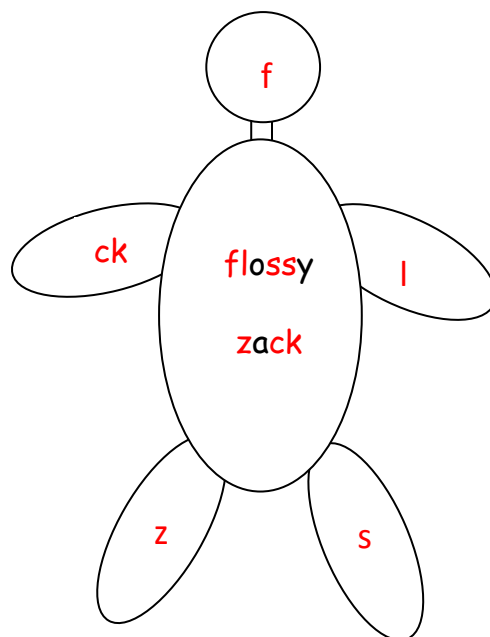
9. Doubling final consonant

Remember **flossy zack** !

Take away the vowels in the 'name' **flossy zack**.

The consonants **f, l, s, z** that are left are doubled if they are at the end of a short vowel, one syllable, word.

The consonants **c and k** stick together at the end of a word.



/ff/

cuff

puff

staff

cliff

bluff

/ll/

bell

dull

shall

spell

thrill

/ss/

fuss

mess

class

dress

cross

/zz/

jazz

buzz

frizz

whizz

whizz

/ck/

back

speck

brick

clock

truck

10. A summary of long vowel spelling choices

These are the most common spellings of the long vowels.
To pick a spelling choice, first ask yourself...

“Where do I hear the vowel sound?”

/ā/			
end of syllable	middle of word		end of word 1 st choice
	1 st choice	2 nd choice	
a	a-e	ai	ay
acorn	bake	mail	play

/ē/				
end of syllable	middle of word		end of word 1 st choice	
	1 st choice	2 nd choice	1 st choice	2 nd choice
e	ee	ea	y	ee
even	feet	bead	story	tree

/ī/				
end of syllable	middle of word		end of word 1 st choice	
	1 st choice	unusual choice	1 st choice	2 nd choice
i	i-e	iah	y	ie
iron	nine	night	cry	pie

/ō/			
end of syllable	middle of word		end of word 1 st choice
	1 st choice	2 nd choice	
o	o-e	oa	ow
open	rope	boat	blow



/ū/		
end of syllable	middle of word 1 st choice	end of word 1 st choice
u	u-e	ew
unicorn	tune	new

11. Suffixes

What is a suffix?

A suffix is added to the end of a word to make a different word.

Adding a suffix changes the meaning of a word.

Some suffixes begin with a **vowel**:

-es -ed -ing
-er -est -ist -ish
-able -ous -y -ive
-al -ism -ous

Vowel
Suffixes

Others begin with a **consonant**:

-ly -ness -ful -s -less
-ment -some -ty -tion

Consonant
Suffixes

12. Suffixes: Doubling the final consonant

When a word has **one** vowel before a single **end** consonant, **double** the consonant before adding the suffix.

skip skipped skipping skipper

thin thinner thinning thinner

shop shopper shopping shopper

swim swimming swimmer



13. Suffixes: dropping e...

Drop final **e** before adding a vowel suffix.

hope**e** + ing = hoping

hope**e** + ed = hoped

hope**e**+ful = hope**e**ful

pave**e** + ing = paving

Vowel Suffix

drop final **e**

then add suffix

14. Suffixes: Keep final e

Keep final e when adding a consonant suffix like -s, ly, -ness, -ful, -less, -ment, -ty and -some.

care

care + s = cares

care + ful = careful

care + less = careless

Consonant Suffix

keep final e

then add suffix

15. Suffixes: changing y to i

When a word ends in y, change y to i when adding a suffix

... baby + es = babies

happy + ly = happily

dusty + er = dustier



Tom happily cuddles Alfie.

BUT not when

1. The suffix starts with **i**

... cry + **i**ng = crying



*Sometimes crying makes
you feel better.*

2. There is a vowel before **y**

...play + ed = played



We played until the sun went down.

16. Suffix /shun/

Most used spelling choice for /shun/ is **tion**

This is used when there is a

consonant directly before /shun/:

direc tion recep tion ac tion fric tion

long vowel directly before /shun/:

sta tion conversa tion popula tion

except for 'i' which in multi syllabic words will sound as the short vowel:

exhibi tion ambi tion posi tion

Another common spelling choice for /shun/ is **cian**, this is used for nouns describing occupations:

politi cain opti cian dieti cian

Other spelling choices for /shun/ include **sion** and **ssion**:

use **sion** when adding to words ending in:

se diverse - diversion

nd comprehend - comprehension

ge emerge - emersion

vert convert - conversion

pel propel - propulsion

use **ssion** when adding to words ending in **ss**:

ss possess - possession

	
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