

Helpful Spelling Rules

Suffixes

For example:
dogs, cats, cups

Pluralising

For most words, we just add s to make the plural.



Suffixes

For example:
life-lives, knife-knives, wolf-wolves, thief-thieves

Pluralising

When a word ends in **f** or **fe** we change the **f-fe** to **v**, then add **es** to make the plural.



Suffixes

For example:
churches, watches, foxes, echoes

Pluralising

When a word ends in **ch**, **sh**, **z**, **x**, **s**, or **o** we add **es** to make the plural.

Exceptions include:
radios, solos, pianos, kangaroos, photos



Suffixes

For example:

Doubled Consonants

In words where a short vowel goes before a consonant, we double the consonant before adding **-ing**, **-ed**, **-er**, **-est** or **-y**.

plan-planner,
begin-beginning,
stop-stopped.



Suffixes

Words ending with -fer

If we are adding a suffix that starts with a vowel to a word that ends in **-fer**, the **r** is doubled but only if the **-fer** is still stressed when the ending is added. If the **-fer** is not stressed when pronounced with the suffix, we do not double the **r**.

r is doubled:

refer-referred-referral
prefer-preferring-preferred
transfer-transferring-transferred

r is not doubled:

refer-reference-referee
prefer-preference
transfer-transference



Suffixes

-cious vs -tious

If the root word ends with **ce**, you'll usually find the sound spelt **-cious**.

Examples:

vicious, precious,
conscious, delicious,
malicious, suspicious
ambitious, cautious,
fictitious, infectious,
nutritious



Suffixes

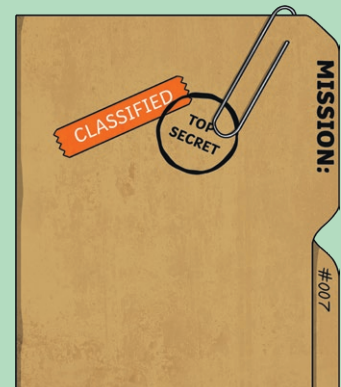
-cial vs -tial

-cial is usually used after a vowel. **-tial** is usually used after a consonant.

For example:

official, special, artificial
partial, confidential,
essential

Exceptions: initial,
financial, commercial,
provincial.



Suffixes

-ant, -ance/-ancy, -ation

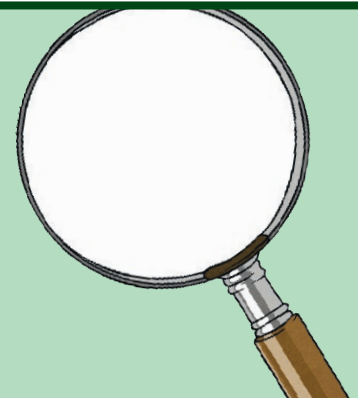
These usually work together.

For example:

observant - observance -
observation.

Exceptions:

You can have assistance
from an assistant, but not
asisstation.



Suffixes

For example:

-ent, -ence/-ency

-ent and -ency are usually used if there is a soft /c/, soft /g/ or /qu/ sound before it in the word.

innocent, decent, frequent,
confident, independent

innocence, decency,
frequency, confidence,
independence

Suffixes

For example:

-able, -ible, -ably and -ibly

-able and -ably are usually used if there is a related word ending with **-ation**.

-ible and -ibly are usually used if there is no complete root word before it.

adorable, applicable, adorably,
applicably, possible, horrible,
terrible, possibly, horribly,
terribly

Exceptions: Changeable and noticeable don't have related words that end in **-ation**. In sensible, the whole root word can be found before the **-ible** ending.



Patterns

For example:

The **-ck** pattern

The letters **c** and **k** go together in single syllable words when they follow a short vowel.

duck, clock, stick, back, neck,
kick



Patterns

For example:

The **-k** pattern

The letter **k** goes on its own if the short vowel sound is followed by a consonant.

think, sank, milk, monkey



Patterns

For example:

The tch pattern

match, itch, kitchen, sketch

After a short vowel sound,
we put t before ch.

Exceptions include:

which, rich, such, much



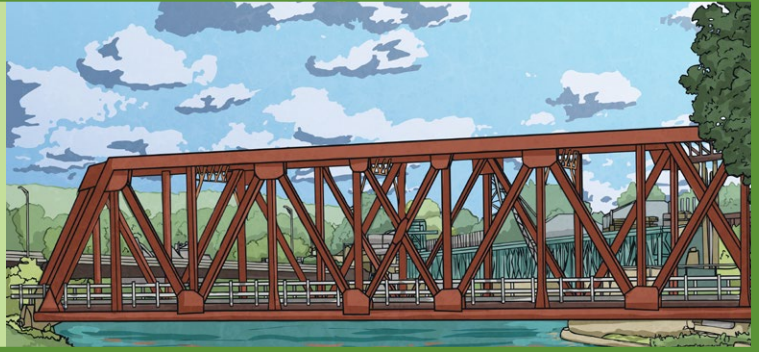
Patterns

The dge pattern

After a short vowel sound, we put d
before ge.

For example:

fudge, edge, bridge smudge



Patterns

i before e, except after c

This applies to words where the e sound /e/ is spelt ei.

For example:

deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling

Exceptions include:

protein, caffeine, seize

