

Some useful English spelling rules – It does help to learn them!

1. Remember vowels (a e i o u) can make a short or a long sound (like their name).
For example a as in apple [short – its sound], a as in ape [long – its name].
2. Have fun with words! Learn to build words from the root word, use prefixes (bits you add on the front) and suffixes (bits you add on the end).
For example: *stand, understand, understanding, misunderstanding*.
3. 'q' always has 'u' with it and is written 'qu' like in 'quiz' and 'question'.
4. No word ends in 'v' except 'spiv' (a flashy man). Often 'e' comes after 'v' to prop it up like in 'active' and 'native'.
5. No English word ends in 'j' or 'q' (Iraq).
6. Never write a 'k' before a 't'. Always write 'ct' as in 'fact' and 'direct'.
7. No English word ends in 'i'.
Watch out for rules breakers: taxi (short for taxicab) and ski, spaghetti and macaroni (but they aren't English!).
8. The 'ee' sound at the end of a word is mostly spelt 'y'.
Watch out for rules breakers: coffee, toffee and committee
9. Double 'l' 'f' and 's' after a single vowel in a short word, e.g. spell, boss, stiff, puff.
Watch out for the rule breakers: us, bus, gas, if, of, this, yes, plus, nil, pal (**flossy** rule)
10. Add 's' to make a regular plural as in 'cat – cats'.
11. Add 'es' to make a plural if the word has a hissing ending like:
S – buses, x – foxes, sh – brushes, ch – churches, ss – fuses.
12. If a word ends in one 'f', change it to 'v' and add 'es' to make the plural.
For example: leaf – leav – leaves, wolf – wolv – wolves.
Watch out for rule breakers: dwarfs, chiefs, roofs!
13. For most words that end in 'o', add 'es' to make the plural. For example:
Potato + es = potatoes.
Watch out for rule breakers: pianos, solos, Eskimos!
14. The prefix 'all' at the start of a word is only spelt with one 'l' – almost, altogether, also, already.
15. The suffixes 'full and till' at the end of the word only have one 'l' – helpful, until.
16. Remember the suffix to make an adverb is 'ly' NOT 'ley'!
17. Drop the final 'e' from the root word before adding a suffix that starts with a vowel.
For example: move + ed = moved, like + ing = liking, drive + er = driver, muddle + ed = muddled.

18. If a word ends in a consonant + y, change the 'y' to 'i' before adding any ending except 'ing'. For example: marry + es = marries, funny + ly = funnily. BUT fly + ing = flying, carry + ing = carrying.
19. 'ck', 'dge', 'tch' are used after a short vowel (one that says its sound). For example: back, hedge, match.
Watch out for rule breakers: rich, much, such, which!
20. If a word is one syllable, has one final consonant and one short vowel always double the final consonant before adding a suffix that starts with a vowel. For example: stop + ed = stopped, fat + er = fatter, hot + est = hottest, rob + ing = robbing.
21. 'ce', 'ci', 'gy' makes the /j/ sound.
For example: centre, circle, cycle.
22. 'ge', 'gi', 'gy' makes the /j/ sound.
For example: gentle, giant, gym.
Watch out for rule breakers: get, begin, girl, give, hear, geese, gift, girth!
23. 'i' comes before 'e' except after 'c' but not when it sounds like /a/ as in 'neighbour' and 'weigh'.
Watch out for rule breakers: neither, foreign, seized, sovereign, forfeit!