

English
Grammar



Active English Group

Spelling Rules

ENGLISH

GRAMMAR

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Spelling Rules

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Common Suffixes in English	
Noun + less = adjective	Noun + y = adjective
job ⇒ jobless	smoke ⇒ smoky
fear ⇒ fearless	hunger ⇒ hungry
Adjective + ness = noun	Verb + er/or = Noun
bright ⇒ brightness	teach ⇒ teacher
careless ⇒ carelessness	visit ⇒ visitor

Helpful Spelling Rules in English



Rules For Changing Verbs Into ING Form



Rules For Changing Verbs Into ING Form

We always need to add -ing to verbs before using in any continuous tense. Below you will learn about the complete rules for changing verbs into ING form.

Rules For Changing Verbs Into ING Form

1. For many verbs, we make the ING form by simply adding -ING to end of the verb.

- eat – eating
- speaking – speaking

- cook – cooking
- start – starting
- do – doing
- stay – staying
- fix – fixing
- try – trying

Sentences:

- She wasn't feeling very well.
- He is working on a new project.
- The children are sleeping so be quiet.

2. Verbs ending with -e (with the exception of verbs ending in -ee and -ie) Drop the -e and add ING.

- hope – hoping
- ride – riding
- make – making
- write – writing
- live – making
- make – making

Sentences:

- People are living longer now than they were 100 years ago.
- We are making a chocolate cake.
- He was taking his time to get ready.

3. Verbs ending with -ee. Just add -ING

- agree – agreeing
- flee – fleeing
- see – seeing

Sentences:

- I am agreeing with her analysis of the situation.
- while fleeing she burst into tears.

4. Verbs ending with -ie. Change the -ie to -y and add -ING

- die – dying
- tie – tying
- lie – lying

Sentences:

- I know you are lying to me!
- You should water your plant more because I think it is dying.
- The little boy is tying his shoelaces.

5. Verbs ending with one vowel and one consonant (with the exception of w, x, and y) For one syllable verbs. Double the consonant and add -ING

- jog – jogging
- sit – sitting
- run – running
- stop – stopping
- fix – fixing
- enjoy – enjoying
- snow – snowing

Sentences:

- The policeman is stopping the traffic.
- We are planning a surprise party for our teacher.
- I think I am getting a cold.

6. For two syllable verbs If the 1st syllable is stressed, just add ING

- answer – answering
- offer – offering
- listen – listening
- visit – visiting
- offer – offering
- suffer – suffering

Sentences:

- The student is answering to the question.
- He is listening to the music.
- I am offering you a special deal.
- He is now suffering the consequences of his actions.
- I wonder what he is whispering in her ear.

7. If the 2nd syllable is stressed, double the consonant and add ING

- admit – admitting
- prefer – preferring
- begin – beginning

Sentences:

- She is admitting to be strict with her children.
- They are preferring to have a football match tomorrow.

8. If the verb ends in consonant + vowel + L, we normally double the final L and add ING.

Note: In the United States (US) they do not double the L when the accent is on the first syllable.

- travel – travelling (UK) – traveling (US)
- marvel – marvelling (UK) – marveling (US)

Sentences:

- I have been travelling around South America for 6 months.
 - He was marvelling at her beauty.
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Suffixes Spelling Rules in English

A suffix is a letter (or letters) added at the end of a word and add a certain meaning to the word. Remember adding a suffix to any word changes the grammatical function (or parts of speech) of the original word and form a new word. Moreover, comprehending the meanings of the common suffixes can help you figure out the meanings of new words you encounter. In the article below you will learn about Suffixes Spelling Rules in English that will help you to build you vocabulary power.

Common Suffixes in English

Noun + less = adjective

job => jobless
fear => fearless

Noun + y = adjective

smoke => smoky
hunger => hungry

Adjective + ness = noun

bright => brightness
careless => carelessness

Verb + er/or = Noun

teach => teacher
visit => visitor

Suffixes Spelling Rules in English

Suffixes Spelling Rules in English

1-Noun + less = adjective

Noun	Adjective	Noun	Adjective
job	jobless	fear	Fearless
work	workless	heart	Heartless
talent	talentless	word	Wordless
clue	clueless	care	Careless
home	homeless	help	Helpless
sleep	sleepless	need	Needless
hope	hopeless	worth	worthless
meaning	meaningless	voice	Voiceless
sound	soundless	sight	Sightless

life

lifeless

brain

Brainless

breath

breathless

tooth

Toothless

2-Noun + y =adjective

Noun

Adjective

Noun

Adjective

hair

hairy

sweat

sweaty

smoke

smoky

hunger

hungry

mud

muddy

thirst

thirsty

wind

windy

anger

angry

cloud

cloudy

mood

moody

rain

rainy

taste

tasty

snow

snowy

smell

smelly

fog

foggy

storm

stormy

steam

steamy

dust

dusty

dirt

dirty

sleep

sleepy

sand

sandy

sun

sunny

water

watery

dew

dewy

ache

achy

itch

itchy

3-Adjective + ness = noun

Adjective	Noun	Adjective	Noun
kind	kindness	nice	niceness
sleepless	sleeplessness	good	goodness
happy	happiness	jobless	joblessness
sad	sadness	homeless	homelessness
bright	brightness	careless	carelessness
dark	darkness	hopeless	hopelessness
white	whiteness	breathless	breathlessness
lovely	loveliness	careful	carefulness
lonely	loneliness	cold	coldness
hot	hotness	sweet	sweetness
bitter	bitterness	sour	sourness
wet	wetness	dry	dryness
glad	gladness	pleasant	pleasantness
polite	politeness	Rude	Rudeness

4-Verb + tion= noun

Verb	Noun	Verb	Noun
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select	selection	produce	production
promote	promotion	reduce	reduction
destroy	destruction	educate	education
suggest	suggestion	apply	application
infect	infection	contaminate	contamination
introduce	introduction	interrupt	interruption
seduce	seduction	attract	attraction
delete	deletion	eliminate	elimination
proclaim	proclamation	exclaim	exclamation
form	formation	inform	information
relax	relaxation	operate	operation
cooperate	cooperation	inject	injection
limit	limitation	continue	continuation
complete	completion	specify	specification
define	definition	modify	modification
relate	relation	beautify	beautification
motivate	motivation	vibrate	vibration

confirm	confirmation	notify	notification
recommend	recommendation	satisfy	satisfaction
purify	purification	modernize	Modernization
Recognize	Recognition	Familiarize	Familiarization

5-Verb + ment = noun

Verb	Noun	Verb	Noun
improve	improvement	invest	investment
develop	development	assign	assignment
advance	advancement	encourage	encouragement
enjoy	enjoyment	enroll	enrollment
excite	excitement	enlighten	enlightenment
employ	employment	enhance	enhancement
deploy	deployment	adjust	adjustment
settle	settlement	pay	payment
defer	deferment	announce	announcement
encroach	encroachment	involve	involvement

6-Verb + able= adjective

Verb	Adjective	Verb	Adjective
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work	workable	access	accessible
love	loveable	reach	reachable
change	changeable	permit	permissible
touch	touchable	hug	huggable
understand	understandable	read	readable
apply	applicable	mention	mentionable
adjust	adjustable	select	selectable
remove	removable	bear	bearable
enjoy	enjoyable	believe	believable
collect	collectable	think	thinkable
count	countable	trust	trustable
like	likable	notice	noticeable
sustain	sustainable	agree	agreeable
eat	eatable	fix	fixable
achieve	achievable	bend	bendable
approach	approachable	value	valuable

7-Verb + er/or = Noun

Verb

Noun

Verb

Noun

teach	teacher	visit	visitor
train	trainer	fight	fighter
instruct	instructor	rob	robber
drive	driver	run	runner
clean	cleaner	swim	swimmer
work	worker	sing	singer
employ	employer	jog	jogger
complain	complainer	sell	seller
own	owner	dance	dancer
joke	joker	translate	translator
interpret	interpreter	hijack	hijacker
listen	listener	speak	speaker
write	writer	play	player
conquer	conqueror	explore	explorer
sail	sailor	love	lover
buy	buyer	hike	hiker

8-Noun/adjective+ en= verb

Noun /adjective

Verb

Noun/adjective

Verb

strength	strengthen	threat	threaten
weak	weaken	tight	tighten
dark	darken	white	white

9-Verb + change y to i + cation=noun

Verb	Noun	Verb	Noun
beautify	beautification	modify	modification
specify	specification	notify	notification
identify	identification	simplify	simplification
verify	verification	clarify	clarification
purify	purification	qualify	qualification
solidify	solidification	unify	unification

10-Adjective + ize= verb

Adjective	Verb	Adjective	Verb
modern	modernize	familiar	familiarize
visual	visualize	personal	personalize

11-Adjective + lty=Noun

Adjective	Noun	Adjective	Noun
possible	Possibility	Probable	Probability

Real	Reality	Capable	Capability
Responsible	Responsibility	Punctual	Punctuality
Equal	Equality	Able	Ability
Visible	Visibility	Available	Availability
Local	Locality	Nobel	Nobility
Sociable	Sociability	liable	liability

12-Adjective + ly= adverb

Adjective	Adverb	Adjective	Adverb
Slow	slowly	Quick	Quickly
Careful	Carefully	Careless	Carelessly
beautiful	Beautifully	Peaceful	Peacefully
Faithful	Faithfully	nice	Nicely
Calm	Calmly	Silent	Silently
Noisy	Noisily	Rapid	Rapidly
Polite	politely	Impolite	Impolitely
Full	Fully	Entire	Entirely

Complete	Completely	Sweet	Sweetly
Soft	softly	Breathless	Breathlessly
sudden	suddenly	Cautious	Cautiously
Kind	kindly	Unbelievable	Unbelievably
hopeful	hopefully	Immediate	Immediately

Basic Spelling Rules For English Learners

Helpful Spelling Rules in English



Basic Spelling Rules For English Learners

Of all the languages in the world English is the most difficult to spell. In other languages [Italian](#) for instance each letter only represents one sound, so if you know how to say a word in Italian you know how to spell it. In English, however, the relationship between sound and spelling is unpredictable. In this article I cover basic spelling rules for English learners that will make easier for you to spell English words correctly.

For example in the following words the sound of “O” is represented by ten different letters or combinations of letters.

So, sow, sew, oh, owe, dough, doe, beau, soak, soul. And the same letter may represent many sounds in English. For instance look at the words below that the letter “O” represents seven different sounds.

So, to, on, honey, horse, women, borough. Here the letter “O” gives seven

different sounds, that's why English is hard to spell, though some people tried to fix English spelling, making it match the pronunciation, but none of them adopted because English sounds different in different countries.

Basic Spelling Rules For English Learners

Prefixes And Suffixes

Prefixes: Prefixes are syllables that are added to the beginning of words or word roots to change their meaning.

Suffixes: Suffixes are syllables added to the ends of words or word roots to change their meaning.

Rule 1 (Spelling Rules Prefixes)

A) The prefix **IN** usually means **not**.

- Visible (able to be seen)..... Invisible (not able to be seen)

B) When added to a word starting with **L, IN** become **IL**.

- Legal.....illegal
- Literate.....illiterate

C) When added to a word starting with **M or P, IN** becomes **IM**.

- Mortal.....immortal
- Mature.....immature
- Possible.....impossible

Rule 2 (Spelling Rules Suffixes)

A) when you add a suffix that begins with a vowel to a word that ends in silent **E**, you drop the **E**.

Suffixes that begin with vowels include: **-able, -ing, -er**.

- Move (add -ing) moving
- Move (add -able) movable

Exceptions: When you add a suffix that begins with **A** to a root that ends in **CE or GE**, you don't drop the silent **E**. The reason to this exception to the rule is that if you drop the **E** to a root that ends in **CE or GE** it might be difficult to pronounce.

- Notice.....noticeable
- Venge.....vengeance

B) When you add a suffix that begins with a vowel to a **one-syllable** word that ends with a **single vowel and a single consonant**, double the consonant.

- Run..... running/ runner
- put.....putting/ putter

C) When you add a suffix to a word that ends in **Y**, the **Y** usually becomes **I**.

- Beauty (add -ful).....beautiful
- Crazy (add -ness).....craziness
- Identify (add -cation).....identification

Rule 3 (IE or EI)

The first rule deals with letters combination “**ie**” or “**ei**” many words in English contain this combination, but its not easy to remember whether to use “**ie**” or “**ei**”. **I** before **E**, except after **C**, Sounds like **A**, and its spelled **IE** rather than **EI**.

- Neighbor
- Weigh.
- Receive (Here “**ei**” doesn’t sound like **A**, because its after “**C**”)

Exceptions: Neither leisurely foreign sheik seized their weird height. Except the words in this sentence the rest words follow the rule.

Rule 4 (EFY)

In English we have four words that end in **-EFY**: **liquefy**, **putrefy**, **rarefy**, **stupefy**. Other words with the same suffix are spelled with **-IFY**.

- Magnify,
- Beautify,
- Identity

When you have words that ends in this sound spell with **-IFY** except four exceptions.

Rule 5 (CEDE Sound Ending)

There are three words end in **-CEED**: **exceed**, **proceed**, **succeed**. One word ends in **-SEDE**: **supersede**.

Other CEDE sounds are spelled with **-CEDE**.

- Concede
- Recede
- Precede

You learned some helpful spelling rules in English, but these rules are not sufficient to spell words in English, because each letters in English gives different sounds, therefore we don’t have complete system spelling rules in English. We recommend you consult dictionary if you are in doubt.