

Spelling Rules for Consonants & Digraphs

1. Use [ck] for the /k/ sound after one short vowel: **back, deck, clock**
2. Use [c] for the final /k/ sound when the word has more than 1 syllable:
music, traffic, historic
3. When [c] is followed by [e], [i], or [y], it makes the /s/ sound. When any other letter comes after it, the [c] has the /k/ sound. Words like to start with [c] instead of [k] when they can: **center, cyclone, clear, cactus**
4. Always use [ge] to spell the /j/ sound at the end of a word: **gorge, age, lunge**
5. Use [dge] to spell the /j/ sound after a 1-letter vowel (short vowel sound):
fudge, edge, badger
6. When [g] is followed by [e], [i], or [y], it gets a choice to make the /g/ or /j/ sound. When any other letter comes after it, the [g] has the /g/ sound:
gentle, gift, gym, glare
7. Follow the letter [g] with [u] when it comes before an [e] or [i] to keep the /g/ hard: **guest, guess, guide**
8. Use [tch] to spell the /ch/ sound after a 1-letter vowel (short vowel sound):
patch, blotch, clutch
9. In one syllable words, double the final [l], [s], [f], [z] after a 1-letter vowel (short vowel): **ball, staff, buzz, miss**
10. If you cannot double the [s] or [z], always add an [e]: **freeze, house**
11. Never end a word with the letter [u]; always use [ue]: **glue, value, statue**
12. Never end a word with the letter [v]; always use [ve], no matter what the vowel is: **groove, believe, relative**

Spelling Rules for Vowel Teams

1. [ai] is most often followed by an [n], [t], or an [l]: **rain, sail, complain, retain.** [ai] is in the middle of words [ay] goes at the end of words.
2. [igh] is most often used to say /ie/ when the next sound is /t/.
3. [oa] is almost always used in the middle of one-syllable words: **boat, roast, coat.** [ow] in the middle of a word is usually followed by [n] or [l].
4. /ue/ can be spelled [ew] or [u_e]. Sometimes it's pronounced /oo/, depending on the sound that precedes it.
5. [oi] is used in the middle of words; [oy] is used at the end of syllables: **spoil, oyster, boy**
6. [au] is used in the middle of words: **cause, pause**
7. [aw] is used at the end of words or in the middle when the word ends in a single [n] or [l]: **pawn, lawn, shawl, crawl**
8. [ou] is used in the middle of words: **house, blouse, cloud**
9. [ow] is used at the end of words or in the middle if the word ends in a single [n], [l], or [er]: **plow, down, growl, shower**

Spelling Rules for Doubling Consonants

1. In a one-syllable word with one short vowel ending in one consonant, double the final consonant before adding a suffix starting with a vowel, except if the word ends with [x]. Do not double the final consonant before a suffix starting with a consonant (e.g., -ment, -ly, -ful): **drop, dropping, dropped; sad, sadder, saddest, sadly; man, mannish, manly; sin, sinner, sinning, sinful**
2. The above rule also applies to the final syllable in a two or three syllable word if the final syllable is accented: **occur, occurring, occurred; begin, beginner, beginning; confer, conferring**
3. When you use -dle, -ple, -tle, -fle, etc. as the final syllable, you must double the first consonant if the previous syllable is closed to keep the first vowel short. This is part of the basic "double letter" rule.