

2. SPELLING RULES

'EI' or 'IE' RULE

- Usually "i" before "e" except after "c" or as sounding like "a" as in "neighbour" or "weigh"
 - Examples: Piece, believe, chief, receive
 - Exceptions: Either, their, science, leisure

COMPOUND WORDS

- Use the full spelling of both words, Don't use a hyphen. Examples: cupcake, firewood

PLURALS

- Adding "s" or "es"
 - Add "s" to most nouns and verbs. Examples: cats, plays
 - Add "es" if words end in "ch", "sh", "x", "s" or "z". Examples: churches, dishes, foxes
- Word ending in "y"
 - If preceded by a consonant, change the "y" to "i" and add "es". Examples: Candy – candies
 - If preceded by a vowel, don't change the "y", just add "s". Examples: toys
- Word ending in "o"
 - Some words ending in "o" add "es". If preceded by a vowel, just add an "s". Examples: go-goes, patio – patios
- Word ending in "f"
 - Change the "f" to "v" and add "es". Examples: leaf – leaves
- Exceptions:
 - Some nouns have different plurals. Examples: tooth – teeth
 - Some nouns don't change for plurals. Examples: deer – deer

POSSESSIVES

- Add apostrophe "s" ('s) to show possessive. Examples: bear – bear's
- Plural word ending in "s", the apostrophe is after the "s" (s'). Example: kitten's bed – three kittens' beds

PREFIXES

- Prefixes just add on and never change the spelling.
- Examples: dislike, indoors, misspell, repay

SUFFIXES

- In most cases, don't change the spelling, just add the suffix. Examples: walk – walker, walking, walked
- Words ending in "e": drop the "e" if the suffix begins with a vowel. Examples: Save – saving, love – lovable, race – raced
- Keep the final "e" if the suffix begins with a consonant. Examples: care-careless, safe – safely, hope hopeless
- Double the final consonant if the word has one syllable or the suffix begins with a vowel. Examples: sit – sitting, nap - napped