**Spelling Rules**

1. The letter q is always followed by u and together they say kw (queen). The u is not considered a vowel here.
2. The letter c before e,i, or y says s (cent, city, cycle), but followed by any other letter it says k (cat, cot, cut).
3. The letter g before e,i, or y may say j (page, giant, gym), but followed by any other letter it says g (gate, go, gust). The letters e and I following g do not always make the g say j (get, girl, give).
4. Vowels a, e, o, and u usually say the long sound at the end of a syllable (na vy, me, o pen, mu sic)
5. The letters i and y usually say the short vowel sound (big, gym), but may say the long vowel sound (si lent, my, type).
6. The letter y, not i, is used at the end of an English word (my). “Y” is a consonant at the beginning of a word: yet. “Y” can also be a vowel, and it can have three different sounds. These sounds depend on the number of syllables in the word and “y’s” place in the word:

My – (i) at the end of a one syllable word.

Cyclone - (i) at the end of the first syllable in a two syllable word.

Gym – (i) in the middle of the syllable

Happy (e) at the end of a two syllable word

1. There are five kinds of silent final e‘s. In short words such as me, she, and he, the e says the long vowel sound, but in longer words where a single e appears at the end, the e is silent. We retain the first four kinds of silent e’s because we need them, the fifth kind is probably a relic from Old English.
2. There are five spellings for the sound er. The phonogram or may say er when it follows w (work).
3. For one syllable words that have one vowel and end in one consonant (hop), write another final consonant (hop + ped) before adding suffixes that begin with a vowel
4. Words of two syllables (be gin) in which the second syllable (gin) is accented and ends in one consonant, with one vowel before it, need another final consonant (be gin + ning) before adding a suffix that begins with a vowel.
5. Words ending with a silent final e (come) are written without the e when adding a suffix that begins with a vowel.

In syllables ending with a vowel/consonant/e (vce) the soud of the first vowel is usually “Long” and the final e is silent.

a – e safe

e – e these

i – e pine

o – e home

u – e rule

y – e type

 Silent e + ending rule

When adding a suffix to a word ending in silent e, drop the e before a suffix beginning with a

vowel: Flame + ing = flaming

Keep the e if the suffix begins with a consonant: sore + ness = soreness

1. After c we use ei (receive). If we say a, we use ei (vein). In the list of exceptions, we use ei. In all other words, the phonogram ie is used. “I before e except after c”.
2. The phonogram sh is used at the beginning or end of a base word (she, dish) at the end of a syllable (fin ish) but never at the beginning of a syllable after the first one except for the suffix ship (wor ship, friend ship)
3. The phonograms ti, si and ci are the spellings most frequently used to say sh at the beginning of a second or subsequent syllable in a base word (na tion, ses sion, fa cial)
4. The phonogram si is used to say sh when the syllable before it ends in an s (ses sion) or when the base word has an s where the base word changes (tense, ten sion)
5. The phonogram si may also say zh, as in (vi sion
6. We often double l, f and s following a single vowel at the end of a one syllable word (will, off, miss). Rule 17 sometimes applies to two syllable words lice recess.

Doubling Rule: Words of one syllable having a short vowel and ending in f, l, s, or z, double the f, l,s or z as in :

muff

sell

miss

buzz

Doubling Rules and Endings One Syllable:

When a word :

(1) having one syllable,

(2) ends in one consonant,

(3) with one vowel before,

double the final consonant when adding a suffix beginning with a vowel: sad + en = sadden.

If suffix begins with a consonant, do not double: sad + ness = sadness

Two syllables:

When a word of more than one syllable:

 (1) has the stress on the last syllable,

(2) ends in one consonant,

(3) with onev owel before it,

Double the final consonant when adding a suffix beginning with a vowel.

Oc/cur + ing = occurring (YES)

Lim/it + ing = limiting (NO)

1. We often use ay to say the long a sound at the end of a base word, never a alone.
2. Vowels I and o may say the long vowel sound if followed by two consonants (find, old)
3. The letter s almost never follows x. The phonogram x includes an s sound (ks).
4. All, written alone, has two l’s, but when it is written with another syllable, only one l is written (also, almost)
5. Till and full, written alone, have two l’s, but when they are written with another syllable, only one l is written (until, beautiful)
6. The phonogram dge may be used only after a single vowel that says the short vowel sounds a, e, I, o or u (badge, edge, bridge, lodge, budege).
7. When adding a suffix to a word that ends with a consonant and y, use i instead of y unless the ending is ing (try/tried)
8. The phonogram ck may be used only after a single vowel that says the short vowel sound for a, e,I,o, or u (back, neck, lick, rock, duck)
9. Words that are the names or titles of people, places, books, days, or months are capitalized.
10. Words beginning with the sound z are always spelled with z, never with s (zoo).
11. The phonogram ed has three sounds and is used to form the past tense of verbs. If the verb ends in the sound d or t, adding e makes another syllable that says ed (hand ed, land ed, paint ed) If the verb ends in an unvoiced consonant, the suffix ed says t (looked, liked). In all other verbs, the suffix ed says d (lived, played).
12. Words are usually divided between double consonants within a base word.