

## Spelling Rules 2015.16

**WALT - spell nouns when s is added.**

Rules:

- Plural
- Most words just add **s**
- Add **es** if the word ends in a hissing/buzzing/shushing sound
- Words ending in **e** just add an **s**
- Words ending in **y** add **s** if the final letter is preceded by a vowel. If not, change the **y** to **i** and add **es**

**E.G.**

**Calculators, characters, competitions pictures, knives, celebrities, emergencies, photocopies, vacancies, echoes**

**WALT - spell verbs when ed is added.**

Rules:

- Words with a short vowel before the final letter double the final letter and add **ed**
- Most words just add **ed**
- Words ending in **e**, drop the **e**, and add **ed**
- Past tense
- *Exceptions*
- Do not double one-syllable words ending in **-w**, **-x**, or **-y**. e.g. **bow - bowed, play - played, mix - mixed**
- If the verb ends in a consonant, + **y**, change the **-y** to **-i** and **-ed**.  
**worry - worried, copy - copied**
- If the verb ends in a vowel + **y**, add **-ed**. (Do not change the **-y** to **-i**.)  
**play - played, annoy - annoyed**
- *Further exceptions:* **pay - paid, lay - laid, say - said**

**E.G.**

**Calculated, disappeared, disappointed, discontinued, disqualified, dissatisfied, escaped, excelled, exploded, inquired**

**WALT - spell verbs when *ing* is added.**

Rules:

- Most words just add **ing**
- Words ending in **e**, drop the **e**, and add **ing**
- Words with a short vowel before the final letter double the final letter
- Present tense

**E.G. laughing, photocopying, achieving, believing, exploding, investigating, practising, receiving, travelling, quarrelling**

**WALT - spell the pattern *le*, *el* and *al***

Rules:

- **Le** is much more common than **el** or **al**

**E.G. Console, agile, aisle, cockerel, bejewel, diesel, accidental, eventual, exceptional, individual**

**WALT - use the spelling rule *i* before *e* except after *c* when the sound is 'ee'.**

Rules:

- Most words use **ie**
- There are exceptions

**E.G. Achieve, believe, chief, friend, shield, ceiling, deceive, perceive, receive, receipt**

**WALT - spell words ending in the suffixes *ible* and *able***

Rules:

- Words ending in **-ible** are more common
- Dropping the **-able** usually leaves a recognisable root word
- Dropping the **-ible** usually leaves a stem of a word

**E.G. Possible, reliable, reasonable, enjoyable, understandable, dependable, breakable, noticeable, considerable, flexible**

## WALT - spell words ending in the suffix **ly**

Rules:

- **ly** means 'in the manner'
- **ly** is added to the root word
- If the root word ends in an **le** change the **e** for a **y** e.g. visible / visibly
- Adverb
- Adverbial opener

**E.G** Actually, especially, eventually, really, negatively, thoroughly, possibly, terribly

## WALT - spell words ending in the suffix **ful (ly), ment and less**

Note:

- **less** means 'without'
- **ful** means 'full of'.
- **Ment** means an action or process
- When full is used as a suffix only one **l** is added.

**E.G.** Beautiful, cheerful, skilfully, successfully, lifeless, jobless, speechless, , encouragement, environment, excitement

## WALT - spell words with the suffixes **'tion' and 'cian'**.

Notes:

- **cian** - common spelling of occupations / jobs
- **tion** - most common ending

**E.G.** Completion, destination, television, direction, foundation, generation, invitation, pollution, question

## WALT - spell words with the suffixes **'sion' and 'ssion'**.

Notes:

- **sion** - the root word tends to end in **d/de** or **s/se** (e.g. collide)

**E.G.** permission, possession, progression, session, collision, confusion, conclusion, decision, explosion, extension

## WALT - spell words that begin with the prefixes **auto** and **bi**.

Notes:

- Auto means self
- Bi means two

**E.G. autopsy, autocue, autograph, biplane, biannual, bicycle**

**WALT - spell words that begin with the prefixes trans and circum.**

Notes:

- Trans means across
- Circum means around

**E.G. transplant, transferred, transport, circumnavigate, circumference, circular**

**WALT - spell words that begin with the prefixes tele and in.**

Notes:

- Tele means far off/distant
- In means not
- There is a **rat** in **desperate**

**E.G. telecommunications, teleprinter, telephone, television, inaccurate, inattentive, inactive, irresponsible**

**WALT - know that c is usually soft when followed by e**

Note:

- Soft **c** makes an **s** sound

**E.G. cereal, celebrity, ceremony, centre, audience**

**WALT - spell words containing double consonants**

Note:

- Double the letter after a short (rap) vowel in the middle of words
- No words use hh, jj, kk, qq, vv, ww, xx
- Some imported words use cc (broccoli, cappuccino)

**E.G. excellent, dinner, rabbit, sudden, successful, passenger**

## WALT - spell words containing silent letters

Note:

- Silent **k** and **g** are found before **n**
- Silent **w** often precedes **r**
- Silent **b** occurs after an **m**
- Silent **l** follows a vowel
- **ould** = over, under, lie, down or Oh you lucky duck!

**E.G. bomb, numb, calm, knight, wrestled, wrapper, gnomes, gnash, knife, knob**

## WALT - use homophones

Note:

- Homophones are words that are spelled differently, have different meanings but sound the same
- **Homo** means the same
- **Phone** means sound

**Advice, advise, aisle, isle, aloud, allowed, affect, effect, licence, license, draft, draught**

## WALT - use comparatives and superlatives

Note:

- Comparatives are adjectives that 2 nouns to be compared
- Superlatives are adjectives that allow nouns to be compared to the highest degree
- Most words just add **er** for a comparative and **est** for a superlative
- Words ending in **e** drop the **e** and take the suffix
- Words containing a short vowel before the final consonant double the consonant
- Words ending in **y** change **y** to **i** to add the suffix
- Exceptions add **more** and **most** before the adjective e.g. more frightened & most colourful

**Pretty, prettier, prettiest. Quick, quicker, quickest. Happy, happier, happiest. Handsome, more handsome, most handsome**

## WALT - compound words

Note:

- A compound word is a word made up from two or more other words.
- Most compound words are pronounced with the stress on the first word element.

**Afternoon, breakthrough, countryside, downtrodden, themselves**

## WALT - words containing 'ough' and 'ould'

Note:

- **ough** is one of the trickiest spellings as it has a number of **different sounds** - see below
- **ould** = over, under, lie, down or Oh you lucky duck!

**bought, brought,  
thorough, borough,**

**cough, enough,  
plough, bough,**

**although, dough,  
would, should**

## WALT - spell words ending in 'cious' and 'tious'

Note:

- If the root word ends in **ce** the ending is usually **cious** e.g. vice becomes vicious
- Exception = anxious

**Vicious, precious, conscious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious**