

Five Basic English Spelling Rules

Rule 1:

i before *e* except after *c*

This is why we write, *my friend believed he received the receipt.*

However there are a lot of exceptions:

If the word sounds like *shen*, as in *sufficient*, or *a*, as in *weigh*, ignore this rule.

This is why we write, *my ancient neighbour is very efficient.*

Rule 2:

y or *i* when adding *s* or a suffix like *er*, *ing*

For words ending in *y* preceded by a vowel keep the *y* as in *employ/employer*

For almost all other words change the *y* to an *i* as in *try/tried* unless the ending is *ing* as in *trying*.

This is why we write, *my employer is mystified by what I am studying.*

Rule 3:

s or *es*

For words ending in *ch sh x ss z* and for most words ending in *o* add *es*. For almost all others *s* is enough.

This is why we write, *quizzes about heroes are interesting for students.*

Rule 4:

The final *e*

We drop this when adding *ing* as in *managing* when a word ends in *edge* as in *judgment* or when the suffix starts with a vowel as in *savable*

This is why we write, *hedging options is usable when uncertainty is emerging*

Rule 5:

The double consonant

We double the *t*, *l* and *r* when adding *ing* or *ed*

This is why we write, *interest is occurring in films starring forgotten actors.*