

## Spelling Rules and Patterns



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

- 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.**

- 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.**

- 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**, **eI** and **aI****

- **le** is much more common than **eI** or **aI**

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

**WALT – use the spelling rule when the sound is ‘ee’.**

- Most words use ie
- i before e, except after c
- 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**

- 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**

- **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

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

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

- **less** means ‘without’
- **ful** means ‘full of’. When full is used as a suffix, only one l is added.
- **ment** means an action or process

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

**WALT - spell words with the suffixes ‘tion’ and ‘cian’.**

- 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’.**

- **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**.**

- Auto means self
- Bi means two

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

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

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

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

**WALT – spell words containing double consonants**

- 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**

- 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**

- 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 – compound words**

- 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 – spell words ending in ‘cious’ and ‘tious’**

- 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**

## WALT – use comparatives and superlatives

- 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 – words containing 'ough' and 'ould'

- **ough** is one of the trickiest spellings as it has a number of **different sounds** – see below
- **ould** = Oh you lucky duck!

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

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

**although, dough,  
would, should**