

Adding suffixes to words ending in 'fer'

If the 'fer' sound is stressed, double the r.

E.g. **referring**, **transferred**.

If the 'fer' sound is not stressed, don't double the r.

E.g. **reference**, **preference**.

Words ending in -ce or -se

Some words sounds very similar but are spelt differently.

In these pairs of words, those ending in -ce are nouns and those ending in -se are verbs.

Nouns:

I gave him some **advice**.

I handed him a **device**.

My dentist **practice** is very close.

Verbs:

I will **advise** him on the best course of action.

I will **devise** a cunning plan.

I need to **practise** so I can improve.

Words which end with 'cious' or 'tious'

If the root words ends with -ce, the 'shus' sound is usually spelt 'cious'

E.g.

grace -> gracious

space -> spacious

malice -> malicious

If the word could end '-tion-', the 'shus' sounds is likely to be spelt 'tious'.

E.g.

infection-> infectious

caution-> cautious

nutrition-> nutritious

Words which end with '-cial' or '-tial'

'-cial' is common after a vowel.

E.g.

official

special

artificial

'-tial' is common after a consonant.

E.g.

substantial

essential

confidential

Words which end -ant, -ance, -ancy, -ent, -ence or -ency

If there is a related word which could end in 'ation', use -ant/ -ance/ -ancy

E.g.

observ**ation** -> observ**ant**/ observ**ance**

hesit**ation** -> hesit**ant**/ hesit**ance**/ hesit**ancy**

If there is a soft 'c', soft 'g' or 'qu', use -ent/ -ence/ -ency

E.g.

innoc**ent** (soft c)

frequ**ent** (qu)

dilig**ent** (soft g)

Words ending in -able, -ably, -ible and -ibly

The -able ending is usually used if a complete root word can be heard before it.

E.g.

adore -> adorable/ adorably

consider-> considerable/ considerably

understand-> understandable/ understandably

TIP:

If the word ends with -ce or -ge, keep the 'e'

E.g.

change -> changeable (not changable)

The -ible ending is usually used if a complete root word can't be heard before it.

E.g.

possibly

terribly

Words with the 'ee' sound spelt 'ei'

If the 'ee' sound is NOT after a 'c', it will usually be spelt 'ie'

E.g.

piece

grieve

chief

If the 'ee' sound IS after a 'c', it will usually be spelt 'ei'

E.g.

receive

perceive

ceiling

'i' before 'e' except after 'c' when the sound is 'ee'

Words containing 'ough'

'ough' can be used to spell a number of different sounds:

'or'

brought/ thought

'uff'

enough/ rough

'uruh'

thorough/ borough

'ow'

bough/ plough

'oh'

although/ though

'oo'

through

'off'

cough/ trough

'up'

hiccough

Words with silent letters

silent 'n'

usually after an 'm' - Autumn, column, solemn

silent 'k'

usually before an 'n' - knock, know, knee

silent 'w'

usually before an 'r' - wrist, wrote, wrong

silent 'g'

usually before an 'n' - sign, foreign, resign

silent 'l'

usually after an 'a' - calm, half, talk

silent 'b'

usually after an 'm' - thumb, crumb, numb

silent 'h'

usually before an 'o' - hour, ghost, honest

silent 'u'

usually after a 'g' - guess, guard, tongue

silent 't'

often make a -ften, -sten or -stle combination-

soften, often, listen, fasten, whistle, castle