

TWU Counseling Center

Spelling Rules

I. Doubling Final Consonants

- A. When a one-syllable word (run) ends in one vowel (u) and one consonant (n) then that consonant is doubled (nn) before a suffix with a vowel (er),

e.g., runner, swimmer, hopper.

- B. A word of more than one syllable (occur) ending in a single vowel (u) and single consonant (r), which has the accent on the final syllable, doubles that consonant (rr) before a suffix beginning with a vowel (occuRRing). Remember, the accent must be on the final syllable. Thus, benefit would not double the t because the accent is on the first syllable.

e.g., admit, allot.

Special case: Words ending in C, add K before a suffix beginning with e, i, or y.

e.g., picnic, picnicked, panicky

II. The Final Y

- A. The final Y following a vowel remains Y when suffixes are added. The suffixes may be s, ing, or ed, er, ance, al.

e.g., journeys, attorneys, jockeyed

- B. When a consonant precedes the Y, the Y changes to I when suffixes are added. Suffixes which may be added: es, ful, ness, ed, ly.

e.g., ally, allies, tragedy, tragedies

EXCEPTION: There is only one case where the y is retained. This is before adding ing.

e.g., carry, carrier, carrying, copy, copier, copying
III. Silent E

A. When a word ends in a silent E, the E is dropped before a suffix beginning with a vowel. Suffixes: er, est, able, ing, ity, etc.

e.g., advise, advising, adviser

There are some exceptions, but usually there is a good reason for keeping the "e" in an exceptional case, e.g., canoeing preserves the e because of the pronunciation; dyeing and singeing keep the e to differentiate them from dying and singing.

B. When the suffix begins with a consonant, the silent E is retained, e.g., complete - completeNESS, expensiveNESS. (Exception: whole + ly = wholly.)

C. Special case - when the word ends in a double e, the final E is not dropped.

e.g., agree - agreeable, see - seeing.

1. When the word ends in ue, retain the final E (e.g., except for due, true, where the E is dropped before ly - e.g., duly, truly, etc., etc.)

2. Words ending in CE or GE will retain the final E when adding suffixes beginning with A or O, e.g., notice - noticeable, courageous.

**TWU
Counseling
Center
Locations:**

*Denton
West Jones Hall
940-898-3801*

*Dallas-
Parkland
FPH 120
214-689-6655*

*Dallas-
Presbyterian
DPB 16
214-706-2416*

*Houston
Suite 2250
713-794-2059*

