

Spelling Rules to Know in Middle School

1. Write **ie** when the sound in long **e**, except after **c**.
examples: piece, niece, belief, receive
exceptions: either, seize, weird
2. Write **ei** when the sound in long **a**
examples: neighbor, weigh, veil
Here is the rhyme:
I before **E** except after **C** or when sounding like **A** as in neighbor and weigh.
3. Only one English word ends in **-sede**: supersede
Only three words end in **-ceed**: exceed, proceed, and succeed
All other words of similar sound end in **-cede**; recede, concede, precede
4. Drop the final **e** before a suffix beginning with a vowel.
examples: dine + ing = **dining**, use + able = **usable**
exceptions: knowledge + able = **knowledgeable**, replace + able = **replaceable**
5. Keep the final **e** before a suffix beginning with a consonant.
Examples: use + ful = **useful**, care + less = **careless**
6. With words ending in **y** preceded by a consonant, change the **y** to **i** before any suffix not beginning with an **i**.
examples: lively + ness = liveliness, bury + al = burial
7. Double the final consonant before a suffix that begins with a vowel if both of the following conditions exist:
 - i. The word has only one syllable or is accented on the last syllable.
 - ii. The word ends in a single consonant preceded by a single vowel.Examples: win+ ing = winning; omit + ed = omitted, begin + er = beginner
differ + ence = difference (accent on the 1st syllable)
drooped + ed drooped (single consonant ending preceded by a double vowel)

Pluralization Rules

8. Words ending in **s,x,z,sh** and **ch** add **es**
Examples: waltzes, glasses, churches
9. Words ending in **y** preceded by a vowel, add an **s**
Examples: turkeys, essays

Capitalization Rules

We capitalize the first letter in the following instances:

1. The first word in a sentence
2. The word I
3. The first word and all other important words in the greeting of a letter (Dear Aunt Sue)
4. The first word in the closing of a letter (Sincerely, Rick)
5. The first word in each line of poetry (with a few exceptions of course)
6. The first, last, and any other main words in titles of chapters, stories, poems, reports, articles, songs, books, movies, and radio and television programs
7. Initials (Mr. V.L. Burke, Lt. V. O'Neil)
8. Titles of persons (President Lincoln, Dr. Van Gombos, Mr. Barham, Ms. Holmes)
9. Abbreviations (P.O. Box 7, C.O.D., Smith Ct., Maynard Rd.)
10. A proper noun (East Cary Middle School, Lake Jordan)
11. Words like Mother, Sister, and Uncle when they are used in place of or with names (Uncle Charles, Aunt Sally)
12. Names of schools, clubs, organizations and buildings (East Cary Middle School, Boy Scouts, The Empire State Building)
13. Names of streets, avenues, boulevards, roads, and rural routes.
14. Names of cities, towns, counties, states, countries, and continents
15. Names of rivers, oceans, mountains, and regions
16. Names of days, months, holidays, and other special days
17. Names of businesses and special products
18. Names of languages, nationalities, and special groups
19. Names of political parties
20. Names of government departments
21. Names of historical events and documents
22. Names of airlines, ships, and railroad
23. Names of magazines and newspapers
24. Names of places of worship and religious denominations
25. The first word of a head and subhead in outlines, for example:
 - a. Little known facts
 - i. Was always a good student