**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

1. 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.

1. 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

1. Drop the final **e** before a suffix beginning with a vowel.

examples: dine + ing = **dining**, use + able = u**sable**

exceptions: knowledge + able = **knowledgeable**, replace + able = **replaceable**

1. Keep the final **e** before a suffix beginning with a consonant.

Examples: use + ful = **useful**, care + less = **careless**

1. 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

1. Double the final consonant before a suffix that begins with a vowel if both of the following conditions exist:
   1. The word has only one syllable or is accented on the last syllable.
   2. 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**

1. Words ending in **s,x,z,sh** and **ch** add **es**

Examples: waltzes, glasses, churches

1. Words ending in **y** preceded by a vowel, add an **s**

Examples: turkeys, essays

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