

Common Word Rules

Homophones: words that sound the same but have different meanings; they may be spelled the same or differently.

Spell Check does not have your brilliant brain, so it makes mistakes occasionally! One mistake that Spell Check does not catch is misused homophones.

A few common homophones include:

see/sea

weather/whether

they're/there/their

which/witch

peek/peak

to/too/two

Drop or Keep the “e”? Rule

If the root word ends in “e” and you add a suffix that begins with a vowel (such as -ing, -ed, -er, -able, or -y), DROP the e.

write + er = writer

have + ing = having

laze + y = lazy

use + ed = used

love + able = lovable

If suffix begins with a consonant (such as -fully, -s, or -ment), KEEP the e.

hope + fully = hopefully

rule + s = rules

manage + ment = management

When the root word ends with a "ce" or "ge," KEEP the "e" when you're adding "able" or "ous" to the word:

trace + able = traceable

courage + ous = courageous

manage + able = manageable

Doubling Up Rule - One syllable words

When a word has one syllable, ends in CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant), and you add a suffix that begins with a vowel, DOUBLE the last consonant.

swim + ing = swimming

big + est = biggest

run + er = runner

hot + est = hottest

Two or more syllable words

When a word has two or more syllables, ends in CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant), the last syllable is stressed, and you add a suffix that begins with a vowel, DOUBLE the last consonant.

prefer + ed = preferred

forget + ing = forgetting

Don't Double Up!

One syllable words

For one syllable words ending in VVC (vowel-vowel-consonant), do not double the final consonant when adding a suffix.

feel + ing = feeling (not feelling)

real + ist = realist (not reallist)

For one syllable words ending in VCC, do not double the final consonant when adding a suffix.

back + ing = backing (not backking)

wash + er = washer (not washher)

Two or more syllable words

For words with two or more syllables, if the last syllable is not stressed, do not double the final consonant.

open + ing = opening (not opening)

confer + ence = conference (not conferrence)

I before E except after C Rule

When a word has an “ee” or long “e” sound, it follows the rule.

I before E: achieve, believe, grief, chief, fiend, priest

Except after C: ceiling, deceive, perceive, receipt, receive

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