

Spelling Rules

1. q is always written as "qu". It never stands by itself.
2. No English words end in v except spiv. The letter 'v' is followed by 'e' e.g. leave, love.
3. No English words end in j. Instead we use 'ge' at the end of words with 'j'. e.g. age, cringe.
- *4. In English every syllable must have at least one vowel. A difficult concept for Hebrew speakers to learn. Some plurals will take -es e.g. boxes, witches, kisses.
5. We double l, f, s, after a single vowel at the end of a short word. e.g. call, tell, toss, miss, stiff, stuff.
Exceptions: us, bus, gas, if, of, this, yes, plus, nil, pal.
In words of more than one syllable we drop one 'l'
e.g. well, welfare, welcome.
6. The "i" or "ee" sound at the end of a word is nearly always "y". No English word ends in "i".
Exceptions: macaroni, spaghetti, vermicelli and taxi (short for taxicab). Also exceptions: coffee and committee.
7. There are three ways of writing the sound 'k' c, k or ck.
'k' is written before the letters 'i' and 'e'.
If 'c' appears before the letters 'e', 'i' or 'y' it makes the sound 's'. Exceptions: soccer and sceptical (written skeptical in American spelling).
Use 'ic' at the end of multisyllable words e.g. picnic, fantastic.
'k' will be written at the end of after a consonant or long vowel. e.g. look, make, mark.
8. Regular plurals are made by adding "s" e.g. dogs, horses
monkeys cliffs.

9. To form plurals of words with a hissing ending, add 'es'.
i.e. after s, x, z, sh, ch, ss.
e.g. buses, foxes, buzzes, wishes, churches, misses
10. 'All' followed by another syllable only has one 'l'.
e.g. also, already, always, although.
11. 'Full' and 'till' joined by another root syllable drop one 'l'.
e.g. hopeful, useful, cheerful, until.
12. Drop the final 'e' from a root word before adding an ending beginning with a vowel, but keeping a consonant.
e.g. love, loving, lovely
drive, driving, driver
rattle, rattled, rattling.
13. 'ck' 'dge' 'tch' may only be used after a short vowel.
e.g. black, badge, hedge, pitch, scratch.
Exceptions: much, such, rich, which.
14. Doubling rule. Words ending in both a single vowel and a single consonant always double the last consonant before adding an ending beginning with a vowel.
e.g. stop, stopping, stopped.
flat, flatter, flattest.
swim, swimmer, swimming.
15. Nouns ending in a single 'f' change the 'f' to 'v' before adding 'es' to form a plural.
e.g. leaf, leaves, wolf, wolves.
Exceptions: dwarfs, roofs, chiefs.

16. If a word ends in a consonant plus 'y', change the 'y' to 'i' before adding any ending except 'ing'.

e.g. party, parties heavy, heaviness

marry, married funny, funnily

BUT cry, crying

hurry, hurrying

17. When 'c' is followed by 'e', 'i' or 'y' it says 's'. Otherwise it says 'k'. e.g. centre, ceiling, circle, cycle.

(cottage, cave, cream, curious, clever).

In words of more than one syllable (is) is often spelt 'ice'

e.g. service, police

We use -ce in words after a long vowel sound. e.g. spice, space.

Also after a -vn pattern e.g. dance, mince, fence.

18. When 'g' is followed by 'e', 'i' or 'y' it says 'j'. Otherwise it says 'g' as in gold. e.g. gentle, giant, gymnastic, gallon, guide, glass grow.

Exceptions: get, begin, girl, give, gear, geese, gift.

19. Words ending in an 'o' preceded by a consonant usually add 'es' to form the plural.

e.g. potato-es, volcano-es, torpedo-es.

Exceptions: pianos, solos, Eskimos.

20. When 'w' comes before 'or' it often says 'wer' as in 'worm' e.g. work, worth, worst, worship.

Exceptions: worry, worried, wore, worn.

21. 'i' comes before 'e' when it is pronounced 'ee', except when it follows 'c' or when sounded like 'ay' as in neighborhood and weigh. e.g. brief, field, priest, receive, deceive, ceiling.

22. 'ti' 'ci' 'si' are three spellings most frequently used to say
'sh' at the beginning of all syllables except the first.
e.g. national, patient, infectious.
gracious, ancient, musician, financial

When we want to write 'sh'n' at the end of a word we usually
write 'tion'. e.g. after a long vowel : station, investigation.
After the letter 'c' e.g. action, junction.

23. We use 'sion' in all the -mission words e.g. remission
all the -ulsion words e.g. repulsion
all the -ersion words e.g. suspension

24. The 'zh'n' sound is always written by 'sion' e. g.
television, erosion.

25. 'cian' is always used when we form a profession derived from
a noun ending in -ic. e.g. music musician
mathematic mathematician

26.. Final Syllable Endings:

ble, dle, cle, kle, fle, gle, ple, tle, stle, zle.

Spell the first syllable first.

If the vowel has a short sound you close it with a consonant.

e.g. nib-ble, hob-ble.

If you have a long vowel sound then we have an open syllable

e.g. ma-ple, no-ble.

In a two syllable word with a (k'l) sound we write kle

e.g. ankle but in a longer word we write cle as in obstacle.

The exceptions are cycle, circle, uncle.

27. Certain endings you should know.

We usually use *er* when we compare two things. e.g. bigger.

After *-rr* we usually write *-or*. e.g. horror

We use *-or* after *-ct*. e.g. actor, tractor.

We use *-ar* after the letter *l*. e.g. perpendicular, circular.

28. When do we use *-able* or *ible*?

-able is used in most cases.

-ible is used in the following instances:

To maintain a soft *g* or soft *c*. invincible, negligible.

When a root ends in *-ion*. convertible, digestible.

When a root ends in *-ns* or *-mis*: responsible, permissible.

29. We usually use *-ary* at the end of a word but *-ery* after words that end in *er*. e.g. milliner, millinery

Remember: cemetery, bakery, stationery.

30. *-us* as an ending appears at the end of a noun e.g. walrus or crocus.

-ous means full of and forms an adjective.

31. Vowel digraphs.

ou or *ow* says (ow). It usually appears in the middle of a word. *-ow-* can be used before the letters *l* or *n*. e.g. cowl, down, or at the end of a word e.g. how, now.

32. *au* usually appears in the middle of a word. e.g. pause

aw usually appears before *l* and *k* e.g. hawk, bawl

aw usually appears at the end of words. e.g. claw, saw.

Only two words begin with *aw* as a syllable. awful, awkward.

33. *oi* and *oy* sound (oy). *oi* usually appears in the middle of a word and *oy* at the end.

^{Note}
Exceptions: toilet, poison.

34. The letter -w- is problematic.

wa says (wo) e.g. want, wasp

war says (wor) e.g. war, warm.

wor says (wer) e.g. worm, work, worship.

35. The Long Vowel Chart.

36. Silent letters.

Silent k

Knife knee knock know

Kneel knew knelt knot

Silent gh

light might fright delight daughter

caught taught naughty though bright

through tonight

Silent w (in wr)

wrist wrong wrinkle wrestle wrote

write wreck wriggle wrap

Silent b

lamb thumb climb

bomb comb debt

Silent t

often fasten

listen soften

Silent l

walk could calm half

talk would palm calf

chalk should

Silent g

sign resign design