

Spelling rule: The -ed suffix	
joke -> joked	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root word ends with a two vowels and then a consonant, you will usually just add -ed. E.g. loop -> looped If the root word ends with a two consonants, you will usually just add -ed. E.g. walk -> walked If the root word ends with a single vowel and then a single consonant, you will need to double the consonant. E.g. hop -> hopped If the root word ends with an 'e', you can just add 'd' E.g. hope -> hoped If the root word ends with a consonant then a 'y', change it to an 'i' and then add -ed E.g. try -> tried
snap -> snapped	
play -> played	
shame -> shamed	
crack -> cracked	
trip -> tripped	
dance -> danced	
slump -> slumped	
paint -> painted	
smile -> smiled	

Spelling rule: The -er and -est suffixes	
fierce + -est	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For most words, just add -er or -est to the end of the word. E.g. hard -> harder, hardest If the root word ends in a consonant and then a 'y', change the 'y' to an 'i', then add -er or -est. E.g. happy -> happier, happiest If the root word ends with a single vowel and then a single consonant, you will need to double the consonant. E.g. hot -> hotter, hottest If the root word ends with an 'e', you will need to drop it before adding -er or -est. E.g. cute -> cuter, cutest
silly + -est	
large + -er	
big + -est	
thin + -er	
plain + -est	
clean + -est	
fancy + -er	
short + -est	
fat + -er	

Spelling rule: The -ing suffix	
joke -> joking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root word ends with a two vowels and then a consonant, you will usually just add -ing. E.g. loop -> looping If the root word ends with a two consonants, you will usually just add -ing. E.g. walk -> walking If the root word ends with a single vowel and then a single consonant, you will need to double the consonant. E.g. hop -> hopping If the root word ends with an 'e', you will need to drop it before adding -ing. E.g. hope -> hoping
snap -> snapping	
shame -> shaming	
crack -> cracking	
play -> playing	
trip -> tripping	
dance -> dancing	
smile -> smiling	
slump -> slumping	
paint -> painting	

Spelling rule: -le, -el, -al and -il at the end of words	
cable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The -le spelling is most common at the end of words. E.g. table, apple, bottle The -el spelling is less common. It is usually used after 'm', 'n', 'r', 's', 'v' and 'w' E.g. camel, tunnel, squirrel, travel, towel, tinsel Not many nouns end in -al, but many adjectives do. E.g. nouns: hospital, animal. Adjectives: local, magical Very few words end in -il. E.g. fossil, nostril
camel	
squirrel	
fossil	
magical	
hospital	
tinsel	
nostril	
towel	
bottle	

Spelling rule: The -ness, -less, -ful and -ment suffixes	
helpful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For most root words, the suffixes are just added straight on without any changes. E.g. care -> careful sad -> sadness enjoy -> enjoyment hope -> hopeless
gloominess	
fearless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root words ends in a consonant then a 'y', the 'y' is usually changed to an 'i' first E.g. plenty -> plentiful happy -> happiness merry -> merriment penny -> penniless
payment	
careless	
useful	
happiness	
treatment	
ugliness	
mindless	

Spelling rule: Plurals	
baby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In most cases, just add 's' e.g. dog -> dogs
wish	
journey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root word ends with -s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x, or z, add 'es' e.g. fox -> foxes
story	
dish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root word ends with a consonant then a 'y', change the 'y' to 'i' and add 'es' e.g. wolf -> wolves
knife	
half	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root word ends with -o, add 'es' e.g. potato -> potatoes
fly	
wall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the singular noun has a vowel and then 'y', just add 's' e.g. day -> days
box	

Spelling rule: The 'dʒ' sound	
cage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The letter 'j' is never used at the end of English words for the dʒ sound.
giant	
jog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the end of the word, the dʒ sound is spelt 'dge' after short vowel sounds. E.g. badge, edge, bridge, dodge, fudge
energy	
bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After all other sounds, the dʒ sound is spelt 'ge'. E.g. cage, huge, barge, change
badger	
barge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In other places in words, the dʒ sound is often spelt 'g' before 'e', 'i' and 'y' E.g. giant, magic, gem, energy
change	
gem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dʒ sound is always spelt 'j' before 'a', 'o' and 'u' E.g. judge, jacket, jog
magic	

Spelling rule: Endings which sound like 'shun'	
electrician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root words ends with -t or -te, add -tion E.g. invent -> invention hesitate -> hesitation
action	
expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root words ends with -ss or -mit, add -ssion E.g. express -> expression permit -> permission
admission	
politician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root words ends with -d, -de or -se, add -sion E.g. expand -> expansion divide -> division confuse -> confusion
confusion	
division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root words ends with -c, add -cian (jobs which end in 'shun' will be spelt -cian) E.g. music -> musician electric -> electrician
musician	
invention	
discussion	

Spelling rule: The in-, il-, im- and ir- prefixes	
irregular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The prefix –in is added to change the word to its opposite. E.g. active → inactive correct → incorrect
illegible	
immortal	
impatient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before a root word beginning with ‘l’, in– becomes il– E.g. legal → illegal legible → illegible
irresponsible	
impossible	
irrelevant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before a root word beginning with ‘m’ or ‘p’, in– becomes im– E.g. mature → immature possible → impossible
illegal	
imperfect	
immature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before a root word beginning with ‘r’, in– becomes ir– E.g. regular → irregular responsible → irresponsible

Spelling rule: ‘sure’ and ‘ture’	
adventure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The –ture spelling will be used when the word sounds like it has a ‘ch’ sound. E.g. fixture mixture capture sculpture
treasure	
nature	
picture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The –sure spelling will be used when the word sounds like it has a ‘zsh’ sound E.g. measure pleasure treasure closure
creature	
furniture	
enclosure	Exception:
pleasure	If the root word ends with –ch or –tch, the ‘ch’ sound will be spelt ‘cher’ or ‘tcher’. E.g. teach → teacher preach → preacher
measure	
fixture	

Spelling rule: The ‘ay’ sound spelt ei, eigh or ey	
beige	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‘eigh’
vein	
eight	
weigh	<p>These spellings can go at the beginning, middle and end of words, e.g. eight, weight, weigh</p>
they	
obey	
sleigh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‘ei’
prey	
neighbour	
grey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‘ey’ <p>These spellings tend to go at the end of words, e.g. they, grey, obey,</p>

Spelling rule: The –ly suffix	
completely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The suffix –ly is added to adjectives to form adverbs.
happily	
dramatically	
locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In most cases, just add –ly. E.g. sad → sadly complete → completely
gently	
simply	
definitely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root word is more than one syllable and ends in a consonant and then ‘y’, change the ‘y’ to an ‘i’ first. E.g. happy → happily angry → angrily
humbly	
basically	
angrily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root word ends with –le, change it to –ly E.g. gentle → gently simple → simply
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root word ends with –ic, add –ally rather than just –ly. E.g. frantic → frantically basic → basically

Spelling rule: The auto-, anti- and super- prefixes	
automatic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auto- means self • Anti- means against • Super- means above or beyond
superman	
autograph	
antiseptic	
anticlockwise	
antisocial	
superstar	
autobiography	
supermarket	
antibiotics	

Spelling rule: The un-, dis- and mis- prefixes	
disappoint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Un- usually 'not' • Dis- and mis- usually have negative meanings
misspell	
disobey	
unlucky	
mislead	
misbehave	
distasteful	
unnatural	
unhappy	
disagree	

Spelling rule: Words with 'g' sound spelt 'gue' and the 'k' sound spelt 'que'	
critique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These words just need to be learned!
intrigue	
picturesque	
plague	
vague	
cheque	
league	
antique	
tongue	
unique	

Spelling rule: The 'i' sound spelt 'y'	
myth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These words just need to be learned!
gym	
pyramid	
mystery	
Egypt	
hymn	
crystal	
oxygen	
physics	
system	

Spelling rule: The re-, sub- and inter- prefixes	
submarine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re- means to do something again • Sub- means under or below • Inter- means between or among
refresh	
reappear	
return	
subheading	
interrelated	
redo	
interact	
international	
submerge	

Spelling rule: The 'k' sound spelled 'ch'	
scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These words just need to be learned!
chorus	
chemist	
echo	
character	
stomach	
technology	
architect	
chaos	
monarch	

Spelling rule: The 's' sound spelled 'sc'	
science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These words just need to be learned!
scene	
discipline	
fascinate	
crescent	
scissors	
scientist	
scented	
ascend	
descend	

Spelling rule: Words with the 'sh' sound spelled 'ch'	
parachute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These words just need to be learned!
machine	
machinery	
chandelier	
chic	
chef	
crochet	
chalet	
brochure	
chauffeur	

Spelling rule: The suffix -ation	
information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The suffix –ation is added to verbs to form nouns.
adoration	
sensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In most cases, just add –ation.
preparation	
admiration	E.g. confirm -> confirmation inform -> information
communication	
dedication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root word ends with ‘e’, remove it before adding –ation.
variation	
complication	E.g. sense -> sensation admire -> admiration
medication	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root word ends with ‘y’, remove it and add ‘ic’ before adding –ation.
	E.g. multiply -> multiplication notify -> notification

Spelling rule: The suffix -ous	
poisonous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For most words, just add ‘ous’, removing the ‘e’ if the word ends with one. E.g. danger -> dangerous fame -> famous
glamorous	
courageous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root word ends with ‘our’, change it to ‘or’ first
dangerous	
humorous	E.g. humour -> humorous glamour -> glamorous
outrageous	
serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root words ends with a hard ‘g’ sound, keep the ‘e’ at the end.
obvious	
hideous	E.g. courage -> courageous outrage -> outrageous
spontaneous	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is an ‘ee’ sound before the ‘ous’ ending, it is usually spelt –ious, although a few will be spelt –eous
	E.g. serious obvious curious hideous

Spelling rule: The ‘u’ sound spelt ‘ou’	
young	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These words just need to be learned!
cousin	
double	
trouble	
country	
touch	
courage	
nourish	
flourish	
rough	

Spelling rule: -able, -ably, -ible and -ibly	
sensible	The –able ending is usually used if a complete root word can be heard before it.
adorably	
possibly	E.g. adore -> adorable/ adorably (‘e’ removed)
noticeable	
changeable	consider-> considerable/ considerably
dependable	
considerable	enjoy -> enjoyable/ enjoyably
horrible	
terribly	rely -> reliable/ reliably (‘y’ changed to an ‘i’ as there is a consonant before the ‘y’)
adorable	
	TIP: If the word ends with –ce or –ge, keep the ‘e’
	E.g. change -> changeable (not changable)
	The –ible ending is usually used if a complete root word can’t be heard before it.
	E.g. possibly terribly

Spelling rule: Adding suffixes to words ending in -fer	
referring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the 'fer' sound is stressed, double the r.
preferring	
reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the 'fer' sound is not stressed, don't double the r.
transferring	
preferred	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E.g. <u>re</u>ference, <u>pre</u>ference.
referred	
preference	
referee	
transferred	
referral	

Spelling rule: -ant/ -ance/ -ancy/ -ent/ -ence/ -ency	
decency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is a related word which could end in 'ation', use -ant/ -ance/ -ancy
observance	
frequent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E.g. observation -> observ<u>ant</u>/ observ<u>ance</u>
substance	
hesitancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hesit<u>ation</u> -> hesit<u>ant</u>/ hesit<u>ance</u>/ hesit<u>ancy</u>
innocent	
hesitant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is a soft 'c', soft 'g' or 'qu', use -ent/ -ence/ -ency
decent	
observant	
innocence	

Spelling rule: 'ei' or 'ie'	
deceive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the 'ee' sound is NOT after a 'c', it will usually be spelt 'ie'
field	
receive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E.g. <u>pie</u>ce <u>grie</u>ve <u>chie</u>f
believe	
ceiling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the 'ee' sound IS after a 'c', it will usually be spelt 'ei'
receipt	
perceive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E.g. re<u>cei</u>ve per<u>cei</u>ve <u>cei</u>ling
relief	
deceit	
achieve	

Spelling rule: -cial and -tial	
substantial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> '-cial' is common after a vowel.
special	
artificial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E.g. official special artificial
confidential	
crucial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> '-tial' is common after a consonant.
beneficial	
official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E.g. substantial essential confidential
partial	
social	
essential	

Spelling rule: -cious and -tious	
vicious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the root words ends with -ce, the 'shus' sound is usually spelt 'cious' E.g. <u>grace</u> -> <u>gracious</u> <u>space</u> -> <u>spacious</u> If the word could end '-tion-', the 'shus' sounds is likely to be spelt '-tious'. E.g. <u>infection</u>-> <u>infectious</u> <u>caution</u>-> <u>cautious</u>
gracious	
spacious	
cautious	
ambitious	
malicious	
anxious (exception word)	
nutritious	
fictitious	
infectious	

Spelling rule: Silent letters	
doubt	These words just need to be learned!
island	
lamb	
solemn	
thistle	
knight	
thumb	
knife	
salmon	
know	

Spelling rule: 'ough'	
fought	These words just need to be learned!
thought	
bough	
plough	
rough	
although	
though	
thorough	
enough	
brought	