

Spelling

How many R's in "ARRRRGH!"

Prefixes & Suffixes

- Prefixes usually have no effect on the spelling of the root word
- The suffix "y" changes to "i" when adding "-er" or "-est."
- The suffix "y" changes to "i" when adding a suffix that begins with a vowel other than "i."
 - Likelihood, Fiftyish
- Words ending in "al" or "ful" form adverbs by adding "-ly."
- Words ending in "ic" form adverbs by add "-ally," except "publicly."
- If a word ends in a single "e," drop the "e" when adding "-able."
- If a word ends in double "e," keep the "e" and add "-able."
- Use "-ible" instead of "-able" when the word cannot stand alone without "-ible." [Forcible]

Silent "e"

- The silent "e" is kept if a suffix starts with a consonant: Hopefully
- The silent "e" is dropped if a suffix starts with a vowel: Hoping
- There are exceptions: European, dyeing

Other Helpful Rules

- Remember the rules for creating plurals
- Usually “i” before “e” except after “c,” with notable exceptions: Ancient, Beige, Caffeine, Counterfeit, Foreign, Height, Leisure, Neighbor, Protein, Science, Seize, Sleigh, Their, Weigh, Weird and some others
- One-syllable words take the “-eed” ending. Only four double-syllable words take “-eed”: Exceed, Indeed, Proceed and Succeed. All others take “-ede.”
- To decide between “c” or “s,” nouns usually take “c” and verbs take “s”: I advise you to seek good advice.
- Don’t subtract letter when words are joined together: Overrule, Withhold

Extremely Helpful Rules

- Look it up. Go by the *AP Stylebook* first, then the *Webster's New World College Dictionary*.
- There are always exceptions to the rules. See above.
- Hyphen or no hyphen? Look it up. There are no consistent rules. A general rule of thumb is hyphenate adjectives.
- We live in the U.S. Use American spellings rather than British spellings. Also use American words, not British (cookies, hood, apartment, elevator, diaper...)