

KS2 SPELLING PASSPORT

A quick guide to some key points in supporting the teaching of spelling in the classroom

EI OR IE?

The rule is: *i* before *e* except after *c* when the sound is 'ee'.

eg. thief, piece, niece **but** receive, deceit, ceiling

Most words use *ie*

eg. fierce friend view shriek field chief

Words where *ei* makes a 'long a' sound

eg. vein rein eight foreign

Exceptions to the rule!

eg. weird protein their either height



MAKING PLURALS

Add *-es* if the word ends in a hissing sound (x, ch, ss, sh)

eg. box-boxes church-churches dish-dishes guess-guesses

If the word ends *vowel + y*, just add *-s*

eg. day-days monkey-monkeys boy-boys

If the word ends *consonant + y*, change the *y* to *i* and add *-es*

eg. baby-babies puppy-puppies fly-flies

Words ending in *-f* or *-fe*, change *f* to *v* and add *-es*

eg. shelf-shelves knife-knives thief-thieves

Words ending in *-ff*, and some *-f* words, just add *-s*

eg. cliff-cliffs roof-roofs chief-chiefs

Most words ending in *-o* add *-s*. (musical terms, shortened forms, newer words, *-oo* words) eg. photos cuckoos

Some older words ending in *-o* add *-es*

eg. echoes cargoes tomatoes heroes potatoes

ADDING *-ED*, *-ING*, *-ER*, *-EST*

Words ending with a single consonant preceded by a short vowel, double the consonant before adding *-ing*, *-ed*, *-er*, *-est*
eg. hop-hopping stop-stopped win-winner

Words ending with a single consonant preceded by a double vowel or long vowel sound, just add the ending

eg. beep-beeped look-looking dream-dreamer

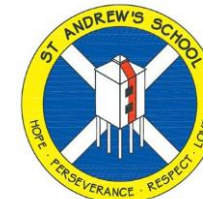
Words ending in *-e*, drop the *-e* before adding the ending

eg. hope-hoping ride-rider fine-finest

ADDING *-Y*

Words ending with a single consonant preceded by a short vowel, double the single consonant to keep the short vowel sound

eg. sun-sunny tin-tinny bog-boggy



SOME CONFUSING HOMOPHONES

Hear –with your **ear**

Here – similar to **there**

There – a place like **here**

Their – belongs to them (think about an **heir**)

They're – short for 'They are'

Where – a place like **there** and **here**

Wear – clothing (think wear **earrings**)

We're – short for 'We are'

Two – the number 2

Too – also; very *eg. It's too big.*

To –before a verb or a place (*eg. to go to school*)

Threw – the past tense of **throw**

Through – a preposition telling where etc.

ADDING SUFFIXES TO WORDS ENDING IN –Y

Change the **y** to **i** when you add **–ness, –er, –est, –ly**

eg. happy-happiness pretty-prettier lazy-lazily

Keep the **y** when adding **–ing**

eg. marry-marrying try-trying

ABLE OR IBLE?

Many more words end in **–able** than **–ible**

eg. miserable agreeable enjoyable valuable

If the opposite starts with **un**, it is probably an **–able** word

eg. uneatable unreliable undrinkable unbreakable

If the opposite starts with **il, im, in** or **ir** it is probably an **ible** word

eg. irresistible impossible invisible illegible

SHUN SOUNDS: –CIAN, –TION, –SION, –SSION ?

Words ending **–cian** are often occupations

eg. optician electrician musician magician

Words ending **–sion** often come from a base word ending in **d/de** or **s/se**

eg. explosion (explode) confusion (confuse)

Words ending **–ssion** often come from a base word ending **–ss**

eg. discussion possession compression

The most common '**shun**' ending is **–tion**

eg. direction attention fraction station

ADDING PREFIXES

The rule is: Just add it. Do not change the base word.

Eg. appear-disappear necessary-unnecessary

