

Five helpful spelling rules.

1. "I before e except after c or when making the long a sound."
—Generally true, but there are several common exceptions. Valid examples: "I before e": *piece, achieve*; "except after c": *ceiling, perceive*; "or when making the long a sound": *veil, weigh*. Some of the common exceptions: *either, neither, seize, weird; heifer, leisure; feisty, height, kaleidoscope, stein, ...*
2. "Use k before e and i; use c before other vowels."
—Useful when wanting to spell words with the /k/ sound. (*Cat, keg, kit, cot, cut.*)
3. "Change y to i and add -es (or -ed)."
—A helpful rule for nouns and verbs that end with a consonant-y combination.
4. "Drop the e and add -ing."
—For use when adding the -ing suffix to words that end with a silent e.
5. "Double the final consonant before adding suffixes that begin with vowels (-ing, -ed, -able, etc.)."
—Valid if a word ends with a single consonant and it either consists of a single, short-vowel syllable, or, if it has more than one syllable, the final, short-vowel syllable is accented. Valid examples: *fog — fogging/fogged; expel — expelling/expelled*. But beware of the exceptions! Words with accented syllables whose vowels are not short: *devour — devouring/devoured; look — looking/looked*. Words with no accent on the final, short-vowel syllable: *worship — worshiping/worshipped*.