**Basic Spelling Rules for English Learners**

Of all the languages in the world English is the most difficult to spell. In English, however, the relationship between sound and spelling is unpredictable. For example in the following words the sound of **“O”** is represented by ten different letters or combinations of letters.  
**So, sow, sew, oh, owe, dough, doe, beau, soak, soul.** And the same letter may represent many sounds in English.

For instance look at the words below that the letter **“O”** represents seven different sounds. **So, to, on, honey, horse, women, borough**. Here the letter “O” gives seven different sounds, that’s why English is hard to spell, though some people tried to fix English spelling, making it match the pronunciation, but none of them adopted because English sounds different in different countries.

**Rules for Spelling:**

**Prefixes and Suffixes**

**Prefixes:**Prefixes are syllables that are added to the beginning of words or word roots to change their meaning.

**Suffixes:** Suffixes are syllables added to the ends of words or word roots to change their meaning.

**Rule No. 1 (Spelling Rules Prefixes)**

**A)** The prefix**IN** usually means not.

* Visible (able to be seen)….. Invisible (not able to be seen)

**B)** When added to a word starting with**L, IN** become **IL.**

* Legal…………..illegal
* Literate…………illiterate

**C)** When added to a word starting with **M or P, IN** becomes IM.

* Mortal…………..immortal
* Mature…………..immature
* Possible…………impossible

**Rule No. 2 (Spelling Rules Suffix)**

**A)** When you add a suffix that begins with a vowel to a word that ends in silent **E,** you drop the**E.**   
Suffixes that begin with vowels include: **able, ing, er.**

* Move (add -ing) moving
* Move (add -able) movable

**Exceptions:** When you add a suffix that begins with **A** to a root that ends in **CE or GE,** you don’t drop the silent **E.** The reason to this exception to the rule is that if you drop the **E** to a root that ends in **CE or GE** it might be difficult to pronounce.

* Notice……….noticeable
* Venge………….vengeance

**B)** When you add a suffix that begins with a vowel to a **one-syllable** word that ends with a **single vowel and a single consonant,** double the consonant.

* Run…………….. running/ runner
* put……………….putting/ putter

**C)** When you add a suffix to a word that ends in **Y,** the**Y** usually becomes **I.**

* Beauty (add -ful)……….beautiful
* Crazy (add -ness)……………craziness
* Identify (add -cation………….identification

### **Rule No. 3 (IE or EI)**

The first rule deals with letters combination **“ie” or “ei”** many words in English contain this combination, but it’s not easy to remember whether to use **“ie” or “ei”.**  
**I** before**E,** except after **C,** Sounds like **A,** and its spelled **IE** rather than **EI.**

* Neighbor
* Weigh.
* Receive (Here **“ei”** doesn’t sound like **A,** because its after **“C”** )

**Exceptions:** Neither leisurely foreign sheik seized their weird height. Except the words in this sentence the rest words follow the rule.

**Rule No. 4 (EFY)**

In English we have four words that end in **EFY:** **liquefy, putrefy, rarefy, stupefy.** Other words with the same suffix are spelled with**IFY.**

* Magnify,
* Beautify,
* Identity

When you have words that ends in this sound spell with **IFY** except four exceptions.

**Rule No. 5**

There are three words end in **CEED: exceed, proceed, and succeed.** One word ends in SEDE: supersede.   
Other CEDE sounds are spelled with **CEDE**.

* Concede
* Recede
* Precede

You learned some helpful spelling rules in English, but these rules are not sufficient to spell words in English, because each letters in English gives different sounds, therefore we don’t have complete system spelling rules in English. We recommend you consult dictionary if you are in doubt.