

ROMALDA SPALDING'S 29 RULES CREATE A LOGICAL PRESENTATION OF THE INFORMATION WE NEED TO BE GOOD SPELLERS. MRS. SANSERI'S ADDED POINTS CLARIFY AND IMPROVE RETENTION. CHRIS KILLEY HAS MADE THEM INTO PICTURES.

1. The letter *q* is always followed by *u* and together they say /kw/. The *u* is not considered a vowel here.
2. The letter *c* before *e*, *i*, or *y* says /s/ (*cent*, *city*, *cycle*), but followed by any other letter says /k/ (*cat*, *cot*, *cut*).
3. The letter *g* before *e*, *i*, or *y* may say /j/ (*page*, *giant*, *gym*), but followed by any other letters says /g/ (*gate*, *go*, *gust*). The letters *e* and *i* following *g* do not always make the *g* say /j/ (*get*, *girl*, *give*).
4. Vowels *a*, *e*, *o*, and *u* usually say their names/long sounds (*a*, *e*, *o*, *u*) at the end of a syllable (*na vy*, *me*, *o pen*, *mu sic*). (These are referred to as *open syllables*.) This rule helps students know how to divide unfamiliar vowel-consonant-vowel words and then pronounce the word correctly. (*re port*...rather than *rep ort*)
5. The letters *i* and *y* usually say /i/ (*big*, *gym*), but may say *i* (*silent*, *my*, *type*).
6. The letter *y*, not *i*, is used at the end of an English word (*my*).
7. There are five kinds of **Silent final e's**. (In short words such as *me*, *she*, and *he*, the *e* says *e*, but in longer words where a single *e* appears at the end, the *e* is silent.)

Silent Final e's should be thought of as "having a job."

Silent *e* #1: *bake gene time/type code cute*

(The job of the #1 Silent *e* is to make the vowel preceding it say its name.)

Silent *e* #2: *love give blue true*

(The job of the #2 Silent final *e* is to prevent us from ending an English word with a *v* or a *u*.)

Silent *e* #3: *chance bodice charge allege*

(The job of the #3 Silent final *e* is to soften a *c* or *g*.)

Silent *e* #4: *lit tle cas tle bot tle dab ble fid dle*

(The job of the #4 Silent final *e* is to prevent us from having a syllable with no vowel.)

Silent *e* # 5: *are nurse raise bye ewe owe cause*

Mrs. Spalding referred to the #5 Silent final *e* as the "No job *e*."

Mrs. Sanseri refers to the #5 Silent final *e* as the "Odd job *E*" and explains: "Any reason for a silent *E* not covered by the first four is lumped into this final category.

1. The *E* keeps a word that is not plural from ending in an 's'

Examples: *dense* (not *dens*), *purse* (not *purs*), *false* (not *fals*)

2. The *E* adds length to a short main-idea word. Ex.: *awe*, *ewe*, *rye*

3. The *E* gives a distinction in meaning between homonyms. Ex.: *or/ore for/fore*

4. The *E* is left over from Middle English or a foreign language where the final *E* was once pronounced. (*treatise giraffe*)"

8. There are five spellings for the sound /er/. Keep these sentences in mind:

Her nurse first works early. Or Father bird returns early with the worm.

In that, the spellings are in the descending order of usage in English.

The phonogram ***or*** may say /er/ when it follows *w* (***work, worm, worthy***). Also keep in mind that ***ar*** and ***or*** say /er/ at the end of some words (***dollar, doctor***).

9. The 1-1-1 Rule: Words of ***one syllable*** (*hop*), having ***one vowel*** followed by ***one consonant***, need another final consonant (*hop + ped*) before adding endings that begin with a vowel. This rule does not apply to words with *x* since *x* has two sounds /ks/.

10. The 2-1-1 Rule:

Words of ***two syllables*** (*be gin*) in which the second syllable (*gin*) is **accented** and has ***one vowel*** followed by ***one consonant***, need another final consonant (*be gin + ning*) before adding an ending that begins with a vowel. If the last syllable is **not accented** (*en ter, prof it, bud get*) **do not double** the final consonant before adding the ending.

11. The Drop-*e* Rule:

Words ending with a Silent final *e* (*come, hope*) are written without the *e* when adding an ending that begins with a vowel.

12. After *c* we use *ei* (receive). If we say *a*, we use *ei* (vein).

In the list of exceptions, we use *ei*.

Exceptions: *Neither foreign sovereign seized counterfeit forfeited leisure.* Plus: *either weird protein heifer*

In all other words, the phonogram *ie* is used.

(In school we were taught, "I before E, except after C, unless it says A as in neighbor and weigh.")

13. The phonogram *sh* is used at the beginning or end of a base word (*she, dish*), at the end of a syllable (*fin ish*), but never at the beginning of a syllable after the first one except for the ending *ship* (*wor ship, friend ship*).

14. The phonograms *ti, si,* and *ci* are the spellings most frequently used to say /sh/ at the beginning of a second or subsequent syllable in a base word (*na tion, ses sion, fa cial*).

Most often, consider the root or root word to help you choose the correct /sh/ spelling to use.

Examples: *infect* to *in fec tious* / *collect* to *col lec tion* / *potent* to *po ten tial*

music to *mu si cian* / *space* to *spa cious* / *finance* to *fi nan cial*

soci (companion) to *so cial* / *ancien* (old) to *an cient*

cruc (cross) to *cru cial* / *speci* (kind) to *spe cial*

15. The phonogram *si* is used to say /sh/ when the syllable before it ends in an *s* (*ses sion*) or when the base word has an *s* where the base word changes (*tense, ten sion*).

discuss to *dis cus sion* / *compress* to *com pres sion* / *admis* to *ad mis sion*

16. The phonogram *si* may also say /zh/ as in *vi sion, di vi sion, oc ca sion, ex plo sion*.

17. We often double *l, f,* and *s* following a single vowel at the end of a one-syllable word (*will, off, miss*). Sometimes rule 17 applies to two-syllable words like *recess*.

18. We often use *ay* to say *a* at the end of a base word, never *a* alone. (*bay, day, decay*)

19. Vowels *i* and *o* may say *long i* and *long o* if followed by two consonants (*find, old*).

20. The letter *s* never follows *x*. The phonogram *x* includes an *s* sound -/ks/.

21. Dismiss L Rule:

All, written alone, has two /s/, but when used as a prefix, only one /s/ is written (*al so*, *al most*).

22. Dismiss L Rule (part 2):

Till and *full*, written alone, have two /s/, but when used as a suffix, only one /s/ is written (*un til*, *beau ti ful*).

23. The phonogram **dge** may be used **only** after a single vowel that says its short sound (*badge*, *edge*, *bridge*, *lodge*, *budge*).

24. Change Y to I Rule:

When adding an ending to a word that ends with a *consonant and y*, use *i* instead of *y* unless the ending is *ing* or might split a phonogram.

city/cit ies beauty/beau ti ful play/player funny/fun ni est

multiply/mul ti ply ing rely/re li able cry/cried deny/denied

25. The phonogram **ck** may be used **only** after a single vowel that says its short sound (*back*, *neck*, *lick*, *rock*, *duck*).

26. Words that are the names or titles of people, places, books, days, or months are capitalized.

27. Words *beginning* with the sound **z** are always spelled with **z**, never with **s**.

28. The phonogram **ed** has three sounds.

If a base word ends in the sound /d/ or /t/, adding **ed** makes another syllable that says /ed/ (*sid ed*, *part ed*).

If the base word ends in a voiced consonant sound, the ending **ed** says /d/ (*lived*). If the base word ends in an unvoiced consonant sound, the ending **ed** says /t/ (*jumped*).

29. Words are usually divided between double consonants.

For speaking and reading, only the consonant in the accented syllable is pronounced; the consonant in the unaccented syllable is silent (*lit tle* to *lit le*).

These rules apply to 83% of all our words

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