

Spelling Rule 1

Q is always written with two letters, qu, when we say “kw”
The u is not considered a vowel here.

Spelling Rule 2

When c by itself has a sound (not part of a two-letter phonogram) it always says “s” if followed by e, i, or y (cent, city, cyclone). If not followed by one of these letters its sound is “K” (cat, claw, cyclone). This is true in spelling and reading.

Spelling Rule 3

When g has a sound by itself it can say “j” only when followed by e, i, or y. When followed by any other letter it says “g”. (get, girl and give show that e and i following g do not always make the g say “j”). In spelling, if g is used to say “j” it must be followed by e, i, or y. (pigeon, religious, energy)

Spelling Rule 4

Vowels a, e, o, u usually say their names “a”, “e”, “o”, or “u” at the end of a syllable. This is one of but three ways a vowel may say “a”, “e”, “i”, “o”, or “u”.

Spelling Rule 5

i and y can say long “i” at the end of a syllable but usually they say short “i”. This is shown at the end of the second syllable of both Indian and baby.

Spelling Rule 6

Y, not i, is used at the end of an English word. (Taxi is short for taxicab and macaroni is an Italian word.)

Spelling Rule 7

There are five kinds of silent final e's.

See what you can discover. Make a list.

Spelling Rule 8

There are five phonograms that say "er".

Ar, er, ir, or, and ur

Find ten words for each phonogram.

Spelling Rule 9

If we say long “a” we can use ei (never ie).

Make a list of exceptions.

Spelling Rule 10

Sh may be used at the beginning or end of a base word and at the end of syllable (she, finish) but except in the ending “ship” (friendship, worship) not at the beginning of a syllable after the first one.

Spelling Rule 11

Ti, si, ci are the spellings most frequently used to say “sh” at the beginning of a second or subsequent syllable in a base work.

Spelling Rule 12

Si is used to say “sh” when the syllable before it ends in an s (ses-sion) and when the base word has an s where the base word changes (tense, tension).

Spelling Rule 13

Si (not ti or ci) can also say “zh” as in vision.

Spelling Rule 14

Words or one syllable (like hop) ending in one consonant, which have only one vowel before this last consonant, need another consonant before adding an ending that begins with a vowel. (Rule 14 does not apply to words ending in x which has two sounds “ks”: box-ing, ox-en.

Spelling Rule 15

Words of two syllables, like begin, where the second syllable “gin” is like “hop”, having one consonant at the end and one vowel before it, also need another consonant before adding an ending that begins with a vowel, *if* the accent is on the last syllable. (Americans have used this rule more consistently than have the English.)

Spelling Rule 16

Words ending with one of the five kinds of silent e’s are written without the e when adding an ending that begins with a vowel. (When the ending begins with a vowel and is not e, i, or y, the silent e is retained so that g can say “j” as in “changeable”, or so the c can say “s” as in “noticeable. Rules 2 and 3 explain this.

Spelling Rule 17

We often double l, f, s after a single vowel at the end of a one syllable word, as in will, off, glass, roll.

You will see words like recess, distaff, egg and add, also.

Spelling Rule 18

Base words do not end with the letter a saying long “a” (except for the article a.) Ay is used most often.

Spelling Rule 19

Vowels i an o may say long “i” and long “o” if followed by two consonants (find, old).

Spelling Rule 20

S never follows x. There is an s sound in x “ks”. Unless a c followed by e, l, or y can be used there cannot be a second “s” sound (ex-cept, but ex-pect).

Spelling Rule 21

All, written alone, has double l, but written with another syllable only one l is written (al-so, al-most).

Spelling Rule 22

Till and full added to another syllable are written with one "l"
(until, beautiful).

Spelling Rule 23

“dge” may be used only after a single vowel which say short a, e, i, o or u (badge, ledge, bridge, lodge, budge).

Spelling Rule 24

When adding an ending to a word that end with y that has a sound alone, change the y to i unless the ending is “ing”; carry is changed to carried and carries but in carrying we keep the y. In English we almost never have an “i” follow an “i”. In the words played or boys, we do not change the y since it is ay and oy, and not y alone for the sound.

Spelling Rule 25

Ck may be used only after a single vowel which has the short a, e, i, o, or u sound.

Spelling Rule 26

Words which are the individual name or title of people, places, books, days and months, etc. are capitalized.

Spelling Rule 27

Z (never s) is used to say “z” at the beginning of a base word (zoo).

Spelling Rule 28

“ed” says “d” or “t” as the past tense ending of any base word which does not end in the sound “d” or “t” (lived, jumped). If a base word ends in the sound “d” or “t”, adding ed makes another syllable which says “ed”. (sid-ed, part-ed).

Spelling Rule 29

Double consonants within words of more than one syllable should both be sounded out for spelling. In writing little, we should say “lit” and write “lit and then say “tle” and write “tle’.

Little, account, occur, effect, arrive, officer