



SPED NSW

Making Spelling Stick

Spelling Conventions Guide

Structure for talking about the Rules / Conventions of English spelling



When I hear _____, I write it as _____.

When I hear /sh/, I write it as 'sh'.

When I hear _____ (orthographic convention), I write it as _____.

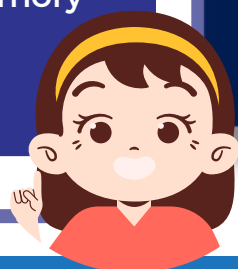
When I hear /ay/ at the end of a base word, I write it as 'ay'.

When I hear _____, I have to remember if it is _____ or _____. Patterns that help me are _____.

When I hear /ay/ I have to remember if it is 'ai' or 'a_e'. Patterns that helps me are: -ake, -ade, -ame,... -ail, ain...

In the word _____ the _____ sound is written as _____. I can say the letter names or use memory tricks to help me remember.

In the word 'eight' the /ay/ sound is written as 'eigh'. I can say the letter names or use memory tricks to help me remember.



THE 'APPPTS' MODEL for spelling

When I want to spell a word I have to think...

A

Ask yourself- what does it mean?

P

What are the parts (base, prefix, suffix)?

P

What are the phonemes?

P

What are conventions or patterns I know?

S

Say it as you write it.



More resources and information online: speldnsw.org.au

Questions & Answers of English spelling

shove

Why does the 'o' sound like short /u/?



'o' often sounds like short /u/ before the graphemes 'v', 'm' and 'n'. Consider cover, oven, money, come, front.

Why does it end in an 'e'?



Further, when we hear /v/ at the end of a word in English we write the grapheme 've'. This is linked to the invention of the printing press (printers wanted to stop the 'v' tile falling off the end of the press).

guide

What purpose does the 'u' serve?



The letter 'u' acts as a 'wall' to protect the 'g' from the 'i'. Without the 'u', the first phoneme would be /j/ as a result of the 'g' being followed by an 'e', 'i' or 'y'. Consider guest, guitar, vague

chef

Why does the 'ch' grapheme sound like /sh/?



This is common in words of French origin – consider chateau, champagne, chalet, chauffeur, etc

two

Why does this word have a 'w'?



The 'w' in 'two' is an etymological marker, marking its connection in meaning to words like 'twin', 'twice', 'twenty', 'twelve', etc..

one

Why does it start with the grapheme 'o' but sound like /w/?



Originally pronounced as it still is in only, atone, alone, and in dialectal *good 'un, young 'un*, etc.; the now-standard pronunciation "wun" began c. 14c. in southwest and west England (Tyndale, a Gloucester man, spells it *won* in his Bible translation), and it began to be general 18c. Its use as indefinite pronoun was influenced by unrelated French *on* and Latin *homo*.

<https://www.etymonline.com/word/one>

quad

Why does the 'a' sound like short /o/?



An 'a' after a 'w', 'wh' or 'qu' sounds like short /o/. Consider want, wash, swap, quality, what

Questions & Answers of English spelling

before

Why does it end in 'e'?



If a word ends in 'or' we add an 'e' (store, more) unless the 'or' is a suffix (doctor, visitor). The base word is 'fore' as is forehead.

benches

Why do we add the plural marker 'es' instead of 's' in this word?



If a word ends in 's', 'z', 'ch', 'sh' or 'x' (sizzle sounds) we add 'es' to change it to a plural form.

much,
such, rich

Why don't these words follow the 'long spelling after short vowel' (tch) spelling convention?



Exceptions or 'rule-breakers'. Much and such arrived in English at the same time and likely followed the spelling of 'rich' which is an old English word derived from French 'riche'.

answer

Why is there a 'w'?



Derives from the word 'swear', in which the /w/ is pronounced.

world

Why does the 'or' sound like /er/?



'or' after 'w' sounds like /er/. Consider work, worm, worth.

fudge

Why is the /j/ sound represented by the grapheme 'dge' and not 'j' or 'ge'?



If we hear /j/ at the end of a base word, right after a short vowel sound we write the grapheme 'dge'.

jumped

Why is this spelt with an 'ed' rather than a 't', as the phoneme we hear is /t/?



'ed' sounds like /t/ after unvoiced sounds. Consider washed, kicked, fluffed, missed.

FLOSS & Doublets

FLOSS

ff, ss

bass	Jeff	
biff	Jess	
boss	kiss	
buff	less	
cuff	loss	
fuss	mass	moss
hiss	mess	off
huff	miss	toss

When I hear /f/, /s/ after a short vowel at the end of a base word I write double letters 'ff' 'ss'.
Exception: bus, this, us, gas, yes

FLOSS

ll, zz

bell	fizz	Jill	
Bill	fuzz	mill	
buzz	gill	pill	
dill	hill	poll	
doll	gull	quill	till
dull	hull	roll	well
fell	ill	sell	will
fill	jazz	tell	yell

When I hear /l/, /z/ after a short vowel at the end of a base word I write double letters 'll' 'zz'.
Except for: quiz.

There are some 2 syllable words that have a double letter in the middle. I can use my spelling voice to remember the doubles. There is a short vowel is the first syllable.

Doublets

rabbit	rubber	tunnel
button	letter	muggy
sudden	collect	puppy
common	cotton	tennis
channel	traffic	funny
happen	hiccup	gallon
butter	button	happen
rubbish	puppet	

DOUBLET

The Spelling of /ay/

/ay/ as 'ay' or 'ai'

When I hear /ay/ at the end of the base word I use 'ay'. When I hear /ay/ with a consonant after it I use 'ai'.

aim	paid	stain	
aid	pail	trail	
bait	rain	train	rainfall
jail	sail	flail	ringtail
raid	pain	braid	mailbox
laid	gain	frail	handrail
wait	wait	grain	raindrop
bail	chain	waist	waistband
fail	faith	paint	-----
hail	brain	saint	exclaim
mail	drain	faint	explain
main	plain	strain	obtain
nail	snail	pigtail	contain

bay	pay	spray	payday
day	play	stray	payback
hay	cray	subway	payment
lay	clay	runway	stingray
ray	stay	midway	playpen
say	sway	sickbay	playback
may	tray	mayday	-----
way	fray	daybed	away
		mayhem	today

/ay/ as 'a'

agent	lady
baby	navy
basic	paper

When I hear the /ay/ in the first syllable (not a base word) I use 'a'. e.g., pa/per

/ay/ soft c & soft g

age	ace
backstage	backspace
cage	face
engage	grace
upstage	lace
offstage	page
onstage	place
page	race
rage	space
stage	trace
wage	

When I hear /ay/ and then the /s/ or /j/ at the end of the base I will spell it 'ace' and 'age' most of the time.

Exception:

case
base
chase

/ay/ as 'a_e'

When I hear the /ay/ followed by a consonant, I can also use a_e. Listen carefully for patterns to help me remember this spelling. E.g., -ake, -ape, -ave

blade				cane	ate		
fade	bake			crane	backdate		
glade	cake			lane	crate		
grade	fake		blame	mane	date	behave	
handmade	flake		became	pane	gate	brave	
jade	lake	bale	came	plane	hate	cave	
made	make	inhale	fame	sane	inflate	crave	blaze
shade	quake	kale	flame		late	forgave	craze
spade	rake	male	frame	ape	mate	gave	gaze
trade	shake	pale	game	cape	plate	pave	glaze
upgrade	snake	sale	name	drape	rate	save	graze
wade	stake	scale	same	grape	skate	shave	haze
	take	stale	shame	shape	slate	slave	laze
safe	wake	tale	tame	tape	state	wave	maze

The Spelling of /ee/

/ee/ as 'ee'

bee	greet	seed		
cheek	heel	seem		
been	keep	seen		
deed	knee	sheep		
deep	kneel	sheet		
feed	leek	sleep	teeth	
feel	meet	speed	three	
feet	need	speech	tree	coffee
flee	queen	steel	week	degree
fleet	reed	street	wheel	fifteen
free	reel	sweet	agree	indeed
green	see	sweep	asleep	proceed
		tee	between	committee

When I hear /ee/, most of the time I have to remember whether to write it as 'ee' or 'ea'.

When I hear /ee / at the end of a short word I will use 'e'

/ee/ as 'e'

me
he
be
she
we

/ee/ as 'y'

bumpy	grumpy		
chewy	happy		
chilly	lucky		
creamy	lumpy		
dirty	moody		
dressy	nasty		
dusty	needy	sleepy	
floppy	noisy	smelly	sunny
frisky	pointy	soapy	sweaty
frosty	rusty	sporty	thirsty
funny	sandy	stinky	windy

When I hear /ee/ at the end of a last syllable (and the words is an adjective) my best spelling choice is 'y'. stin/ky

When I hear /ee/ at the end of the first syllable I mostly write it as 'e'. e/ven, e/qual.

/ee/ as 'e'

edict ethos
ego even
egret evil
enough
equal

/ee/ as 'ea'

beach	dream	lead	neat	steam	reason
beat	each	leak	peace	tea	repeat
bean	ease	lean	please	teach	season
breathe	east	leap	reach	team	
cease	eat	least	read	treat	
cheap	feast	leave	real	weak	
clean	flea	meal	sea	wheat	
cream	heat	mean	seat		
deal	heave	meat	speak		

When I hear /ee/, most of the time I have to remember whether to write it as 'ee' or 'ea'.

The Spelling of /k/

/k/ as 'k'

bank	Frank
blank	honk
blink	hulk
brisk	husk
bulk	ink
bunk	junk
chunk	link
clunk	milk
desk	musk
drank	pink
drink	plank
dusk	prank

When I hear /k/ after a short vowel and a consonant at the end of a base word I write 'k'.

rank	sink
rink	stink
risk	tank
sank	thank
shrink	whisk
silk	wink

When I hear /k/ at the beginning of a word followed by a consonant or /a/, /u/, /o/ I use 'c'.

/k/ as 'c'

camp	cliff	cog	crack
cap	cling	cold	cram
cat	clinic	colt	cramp
clam	clip	come	crash
clamp	clock	comic	crust
clap	cloth	cost	crept
clash	club	cot	crimp
classic	clump	cover	crisp
click	cod	crab	croc
			cross
			crush
			cub
			cuff
			cup
			cusp

/k/ as 'ck'

black	deck	lock			
block	duck	neck			
brick	flick	pack			
chick	flock	pick			
chuck	Jack	quack	shock	sock	track
click	kick	quick	sick	stack	truck
clock	lick	sack	snack	stick	yack

When I hear /k/, after a short vowel at the end of a base word I write 'ck'.

/ee/ /oo/

beak	book
bleak	brook
cheek	cook
creek	crook
freak	hook
geek	look
Greek	nook
leek	sook
leak	snook
mEEK	spook
peek	took
reek	
seek	
shriek	
speak	
squeak	
streak	
teak	
weak	
week	

When I hear /k/ after /ee/, /oo/, /ir/, /aw/ or /ar/ I will use a 'k'.

/ir/	clerk	
	jerk	
	lurk	
/ar/	ark	
	bark	
	dark	
	hark	
	lark	
	mark	
	park	
	shark	

When I hear /k/ straight after /ay/, /igh/, /ew/ and often /oa/ I will use 'ke' because there is a split vowel digraph.

/k/ as 'ke'

/ay/	shake	/igh/	bike	/ew/	duke	/oa/	bloke
bake	lake	hike	like	duke	bloke		
cake	make	like	Mike	fluke	broke		
fake	quake	take	Mike	jukebox	joke		
flake	rake	wake	Mike	Luke	poke		
			yikes	rebuke	woke		

/i//k/ as 'ic'

arctic	cubic	logic		
basic	cyclic	lyric		
caustic	drastic	magic		
centric	epic	manic	psychic	
chronic		metric	public	
civic	ethnic	mimic	relic	
classic	fabric	mosaic	rubric	technic
cleric	frantic	music	rustic	topic
clinic	garlic	mystic	scenic	toxic
comic	gastric	optic	septic	traffic
cosmic	graphic	panic	sonic	tragic
critic	hectic	pelvic	static	tropic
cryptic	lactic	picnic	tactic	tunic

When I hear /i/ /k/ at the end of a 2-syllable word I most often write 'ic'.

When I hear /k/ followed by /i/, /e/, I use 'k'.

kebab	Ken	kid	
keel	kennel	kidnap	
keel	kept	kidney	
keen	ketchup	kill	skeleton
keep	kettle	kilogram	sketch
keg	kick	kilt	skid
		kind	skill
		king	skim
		kiss	skimp
		kit	skin
		kitchen	skip
		kite	skirt

The Spelling of /ch/

When I hear /ch/, after a short vowel at the end of a base word I write 'tch'.
Except for: such, much & rich.

/ch/ as 'tch'

batch	patch
catch	pitch
clutch	scratch
ditch	sketch
Dutch	snatch
fetch	stitch
hatch	stretch
hutch	switch
itch	witch
latch	wretch
match	

/ch/ as 'ch'

belch	finch	pinch
bench	flinch	punch
branch	French	ranch
brunch	hunch	scrunch
bunch	inch	trench
clench	lunch	wrench
crunch	mulch	zilch
drench	munch	

When I hear /ch/ after a short vowel and a consonant at the end of a base word I write 'ch'.

When I hear 'ch' after a long vowel I write 'ch'.

/ch/ as 'ch'

arch	beach
birch	beech
church	coach
lurch	leech
march	peach
perch	poach
porch	pooch
search	preach
starch	reach
torch	speech
	teach

The Spelling of /j/

When I hear /j/, after a short vowel at the end of a base word I write 'dge'.

/j/ as 'dge'

badge	fridge	lodge	sludge
bridge	fudge	midge	smudge
budge	grudge	nudge	splodge
dodge	hedge	podge	trudge
dredge	judge	ridge	wedge
edge	ledge	sledge	

/j/ as 'ge'

When I hear /j/ straight after a long vowel I write 'ge'.

age
cage
change
huge
page
rage
stage
wage

engage
refuge
refuse

When I hear /j/ after a short vowel and a consonant at the end of a base word I write 'ge'.

/j/ as 'ge'

barge	gorge	sponge	discharge
bulge	hinge	tinge	enlarge
charge	large	urge	indulge
cringe	plunge		recharge
forge	purge		revenge
fringe	singe		

The Spelling of /igh/

/igh/ as 'i'

bias	final		
bible	finally		
bicep	giant		
bicycle	ibis	minor	tidal
biro	idea	minus	tiger
bison	idol	pilot	triangle
bridle	iris	pirate	tricep
China	item	primary	triumph
climate	ivy	private	vibrate
crisis	liar	quiet	violent
dial	library	rifle	violet
diary	licence	silent	violin
diet	lion	siren	vital
dinosaur	milo	spider	vitamin

When I hear /igh/ at the end of the first syllable I mostly write it as 'i'.
E.g., fi/nal, qui/et.

When I hear /igh/ followed by /t/ I know that I will often use 'igh'.

/igh/ as 'igh'

blight	knight	right
bright	light	slight
fight	might	tight
flight	night	
fright	plight	

/igh/ as 'y'

by	shy	apply		
cry	sly	comply		
dry	sky	defy		
fly	spy	deny	occupy	
fry	try	July	rectify	reply
my	why	multiply	rely	satisfy

When I hear /igh / at the end of a short word or at the end of a word with 2 or more syllables I will almost always use 'y'.

When I hear the /igh/ followed by 2 consonant letters in a base word I use 'i'

/igh/ as 'i'

bind	kind	wild
blind	mild	wind
child	mind	
find	rewind	
hind	rind	

/igh/ as 'i_e'

d				n		p		s
bride				dine		pipe		rise
glide				fine		ripe		wise
hide				line		stripe		
ride		l		mine		tripe		
side	f	file		nine			t	
slide	knife	mile	m	pine		r	bite	
wide	life	smile	crime	spine		fire	quite	v
slide		stile	grime	whine		hire	spite	dive
slide	k	tile	slime	wine		sire	white	drive
tide	like	while	time			wire	write	five
								z
								prize
								size

When I hear /igh/ followed by a consonant, I will use 'i_e' (except 't').

The Spelling of /oa/

/oa/ as 'o'

bogus	noble	
bonus	nobody	
coma	notice	
going	omen	open
hotel	only	program

When I hear /oa/ at the end of the first syllable in 2 or more syllable words I will use 'o'.

.....

avocado	halo
banjo	hero
bingo	hippo
bistro	memo
cheerio	piano
demo	poncho
drongo	radio
echo	stereo
expo	tempo
gecko	zero

When I hear /oa/ at the end of a word with more than one syllable I will use 'o'.

When I hear the /oa/ at the end of a base I write it as 'ow'.

/oa/ as 'ow'

below	pillow
billow	row
blow	shadow
bow	shallow
crow	show
elbow	slow
flow	snow
glow	stow
grow	wallow
know	willow
low	window
mow	

/oa/ as 'oa' or 'o_e'

(Sorted by word family)

oat	loaf	●	b	l		
boat		●	robe	hole		
coat	moan	●		stole	t	
float	groan	●	d		note	
goat	loan	●	code	m	rote	
throat		●	node	home	vote	v
	oak	●	rode			cove
load	soak	●	strode	n		clove
road		●		bone	s	drove
toad	soap	●	k	lone	chose	grove
		●	bloke		close	stove
coal	oath	●	broke	p	hose	
foal		●	joke	cope	nose	
goal		●	spoke	hope	pose	z
		●	woke	mope	rose	doze
					those	froze

When I hear the /oa/ followed by a consonant I can use 'oa' or 'o_e'. I have to listen and look for patterns to help me remember that spelling.

The Spelling of /oy/

/oy/ as 'oy'

annoy
boy
convoy
coy
destroy
employ
enjoy
joy

Roy
toy
Troy

When I hear the /oy/ at the end of a base word I will use 'oy'.

/oy/ as 'oi'

appoint
avoid
boil
choice
coil
coin
disappoint
exploit

foil
join
joint
noise
noisy
oil
ointment
point

poise
poison
porpoise
rejoice
soil
spoil
toil
toilet
voice

When I hear the /oy/ in the middle of the base word I will use 'oi'.

The Spelling of -Cle

-Cle double

	dd		gg		zz
	cuddle		dazzle		drizzle
	fiddle	ff	giggle	tt	embezzle
bb	meddle	baffle	goggle	bottle	fizzle
bubble	muddle	duffle	snuggle	brittle	frazzle
cobble	paddle	muffle	wiggle	kettle	grizzle
hobble	puddle	raffle	wriggle	mottle	guzzle
nibble	riddle	scuffle		rattle	muzzle
pebble	saddle	sniffle	pp	scuttle	nozzle
rubble	twiddle	snuffle	ripple	skittle	nuzzle
scribble	waddle	truffle	topple	throttle	sizzle

When I hear Consonant + /le/ straight after a short vowel, the consonant is a double letter.

When I hear Consonant + /le/ straight after /ng/ the /ng/ is a single n.

-Cle after /ng/

dangle
jangle mingle
jingle shingle
jungle strangle
mangle tangle

-Cle no double

/ay/	/ee/	/igh/	/oo/	/ew/	/ar/
cable	beetle	bible	(moon)	bugle	sparkle
cradle	feeble	bridle	noodle		
ladle	steeple	cycle	poodle		
maple	treacle	stifle			
table		trifle			

When I hear Consonant + /le/ straight after a long vowel, the consonant is a single letter.

When I hear /k/ + /le/ straight after a short vowel, the /k/ is 'ck'. If it is straight after /ng/ the /k/ is 'k'.

/k/ + /le/

buckle
crackle trickle
fickle
knuckle ankle
tackle sprinkle
tickle wrinkle

The Spelling of /aw/

When I hear the /aw/ at the end of a base word I will use 'ore'
Exception: or, for

/aw/ as 'ore'

before	restore	store
bore	score	swore
core	shore	tore
more	snore	wore

/aw/ as 'or'

afford	forget	normal	
border	fork	pork	
born	form	port	sport
cord	horn	record	stork
cork	horse	short	storm
corn	lord	snort	story
corner	north	sort	support
			sword
			thorn
			torn

When I hear the /aw/ in the middle of the base word I will use 'or'.

When I hear /aw/ straight after /w/ I will use 'ar'.

/aw/ as 'ar'

	towards	warm
reward	war	warn
swarm	ward	warp

/aw/ as 'aw'

claw			
draw			
flaw			
flaw	saw		
gnaw	slaw		dawn
in-law	straw	brawl	drawn
jaw	thaw	crawl	awe
law		drawl	fawn
outlaw	gawk	shawl	awesome
paw	hawk	sprawl	awful
raw	squawk	trawl	awn
			prawn
			awning
			sawdust

When I hear the /aw/ in some words I will use 'aw'. I have to look for patterns to help me remember when to use 'aw'.

The Spelling of /ow/

/ow/ as 'ow'

allow
bow
brow
cow
endow
how
now
row
vow
wow

When I hear the /ow/ at the end of a base word or at the end of a syllable I will use 'ow'.

powder
power
flower
tower
shower

When I hear the /ow/ followed by just /n/ or /l/ at the end of a base I will use 'ow'

brown
clown
crown
down
drown
gown
town
fowl
growl
owl
prowl

/ow/ as 'ou'

around	couch	sour	
bound	crouch	cloud	
found	ouch	loud	south
ground	pouch	aloud	mouth
hound	slouch	shout	county
mound		mount	foul
pound	house	amount	trousers
round	mouse	count	noun
sound	flour	account	announce
wound	hour		

When I hear the /ow/ in the middle of a word I mostly use 'ou'.

The Spelling of /ear/

/ear/ as 'ear'

clear	rear
dear	shear
ear	smear
fear	spear
gear	tear
hear	year
near	

When I hear the /ear/ at the end of a base word I will often use 'ear'.

/ear/ as 'eer'

auctioneer	profiteer
commandeer	puppeteer
electioneer	racketeer
engineer	volunteer
mountaineer	
musketeer	
pioneer	

When I hear the /ear/ at the end of a long word (polysyllabic) and the word means someone who does something (noun), I will use 'eer'.

The Spelling of /oo/

b/oo/k as 'oo'

stood	•	brook	cook	•	wool	•	foot
good	•	hook	look	•		•	
understood	•	took		•		•	
wood	•	book		•		•	

When I hear the /oo (book)/in a base word my best choice is 'oo'.

The Spelling of /r/

/r/ as 'wr'

wrap		wrangle	
wrath	wrist	wrangle	wrinkle
wreck	write	wreath	writer
wren	wrong	wrestle	writer
wring	wrote	wretched	wrought

We use 'wr' for /r/ when the word has something to do with twisting, bending or breaking.

The Spelling of /o/

/o/ as 'a'

swab	what			
swamp		quad		
swan	swaddle	quaff	quantity	
swap	swallow	quash	quarantine	
swat	waddle	squad	quarrel	
swatch	waffle	squash	quarry	
wad	wallaby	squat	squabble	
wand	wallet		squadron	
want	wallow	equality		
was	wander	quadrant	false	alter
wash	warrant	qualify	halt	restaurant
wasp	warrior	quality	malt	scallop
watch	wattle	quantify	salt	yacht

When I hear /o/ after the /w/ sound I most often use 'a' for the /o/ sound.

The Spelling of /u/

/u/ as 'ou'

rough	country	encourage
touch	couple	enough
tough	courage	flourish
young	cousin	nourish
	double	southern
		trouble

There are a few words that I have to remember use 'ou' for the /u/ sound. Sometimes when I hear /u/ in the first syllable I have to remember to use 'ou'.

Jobs of 'e'

When a final 'e' follows a VC

- The 'e' is silent
- The preceding vowel sound is long
 - hive, rove, wave, plume, these

VC <e>

When a final 'e' follows 'ng', 'th' or 'st' in a one-syllable word

- The 'e' is silent
- The preceding vowel sound is long
 - clothe, range, waste

V 'ng' <e>

V 'th' <e>

V 'st' <e>

When an 'e' follows a 'g' or 'c'

- The 'e' usually makes the consonant sound 'soft'
 - cell, gent, germ
- The 'e' is silent if it is final and the consonant sound is soft
 - rage, slice, huge, place, fence, large

'g' <e>

'c' <e>

When a final 'e' follows an 'i', 'u' or 'v'

- The 'e' is silent
- The 'e' stops the 'i', 'u' or 'v' from being the last letter of a word (no word originating from the English language ends in these letters)
 - have, give, blue, clue, die, pie

'i' <e>

'u' <e>

'v' <e>

When a final 'e' is at the end of a word such as 'lapse', 'moose' or 'please'

- The 'e' is silent
- The 'e' can show that a word is not a plural (eg 'dense' does not mean more than one 'den') and can clarify pronunciation (eg. 'hears' vs 'hearse')
 - moose, goose, dense, tease, lapse, hearse

When a final 'e' follows 'th'

- The 'e' is silent
- The 'e' makes the 'th' say its voiced sound
 - breathe, teethe, loathe, soothe

'th' <e>

When a final 'e' follows 'r' or 'l'

- The 'e' is silent
- The 're' or 'le' ending helps form a syllable, because we expect every syllable to have a letter/s which represents a vowel sound
 - centre, metre, theatre, acre, trundle, stable, muscle, wiggle

'r' <e>

'l' <e>

When a final 'e' changes the meaning (but not the pronunciation) of a word

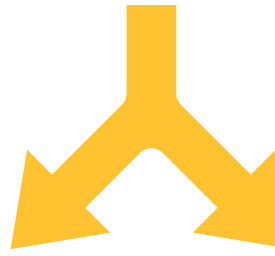
- The 'e' is silent
- A homophone results
 - be/bee, by/bye, aw/awe, for/fore, aid/aide

Morpheme

the smallest unit of meaning in language

un
and kind
able

ly
ness re
ed



LEXICAL

- Have a 'real world' meaning
- Convey the major 'content' of a message
- Specify things, quantities, events, attributes

Free Bases

Content words

Verbs – jump, swim, talk

Nouns – pen, tiger, mug

Adjectives – old, large

Adverbs – quite, often

Bound Bases

Only appear as part of a larger word – must have a prefix, suffix and/or another base added to it.
eg. ject (> reject)

vive (> survive, vivid)

Bound Affixes

Derivational morphemes

Create /new/ words and can change the meaning of words

*Prefixes: de-, un-, re-

*Suffixes: -ly, -able, -ness

GRAMMATICAL

- Change the form of a word but don't have a 'real world' meaning

Free Function Words

Pronouns – it, he, they

Articles – a, an, the

Conjunctions – for, and, but, so

Prepositions – in, at, with

Auxiliary verbs – be, have, do

Bound Inflectional Morphemes

Show grammatical relationships and have grammatical significance only *Suffixes : -s, -ed, -er, -ing, -est

KNOW YOUR SUFFIXES

Vowel Suffixes

able (billable)
ant, ance (ignorant, ignorance)
ate (activate)
al (coastal)
ed (jumped, planted, loved)
en (frighten)
ent, ence (different, difference)
er (lighter)
es (boxes)
ess (waitress)
est (longest)
ian, an (librarian, guardian)
ic (academic)
ible (flexible)
ing (melting)
ion (action)
ist (artist)
ish (feverish)
ive (addictive)
or (sailor)
ous (famous)
ity (activity)
ure (closure)
y (funny)

Consonant Suffixes

ful (harmful)
less (thoughtless)
logy (biology)
ly (quickly)
ment (enjoyment)
ness (kindness)
s (ducks)
ty (safety)

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