

## 15 Spelling Rules for the Present Progressive

1. Add *-ing* to the base form of the verb.

read      reading  
stand     standing

2. If a verb ends in a silent *-e*, drop the final *-e* and add *-ing*.

leave     leaving  
take      taking

3. In a one-syllable word, if the last three letters are a consonant-vowel-consonant combination (CVC), double the last consonant before adding *-ing*.

CVC  
↓↓↓  
s i t      sitting

CVC  
↓↓↓  
r u n      running

However, do not double the last consonant in words that end in *w*, *x*, or *y*.

sew        sewing  
fix        fixing  
enjoy     enjoying

4. In words of two or more syllables that end in a consonant-vowel-consonant combination, double the last consonant only if the last syllable is stressed.

admit     admitting    (The last syllable is stressed)

whisper   whispering   (The last syllable is not stressed,  
so you don't double the *-r*.)

5. If a verb ends in *-ie*, change the *ie* to *y* before adding *-ing*.

die        dying

## 16 Spelling Rules for the Simple Present Tense: Third-Person Singular (*he, she, it*)

1. Add *-s* for most verbs.

work      works  
buy        buys  
ride        rides  
return     returns

2. Add *-es* for words that end in *-ch*, *-s*, *-sh*, *-x*, or *-z*.

watch     watches  
pass      passes  
rush      rushes  
relax     relaxes  
buzz      buzzes

3. Change the *y* to *i* and add *-es* when the base form ends in a consonant + *y*.

study     studies  
hurry     hurries  
dry        dries

Do not change the *y* when the base form ends in a vowel + *y*. Add *-s*.

play      plays  
enjoy     enjoys

4. A few verbs have irregular forms.

be        is  
do        does  
go        goes  
have     has

## 17 Spelling Rules for the Simple Past Tense of Regular Verbs

1. If the verb ends in a consonant, add *-ed*.

return    returned  
help      helped

2. If the verb ends in *-e*, add *-d*.

live      lived  
create    created  
die      died

3. In one-syllable words, if the verb ends in a consonant-vowel-consonant combination (CVC), double the final consonant and add *-ed*.

CVC  
↓ ↓ ↓  
h o p      hopped

CVC  
↓ ↓ ↓  
r u b      rubbed

However, do not double one-syllable words ending in *-w*, *-x*, or *-y*.

bow      bowed  
mix      mixed  
play     played

4. In words of two or more syllables that end in a consonant-vowel-consonant combination, double the last consonant only if the last syllable is stressed.

prefér    preferred    (The last syllable is stressed.)

visit      visited      (The last syllable is not stressed,  
so you don't double the *t*.)

5. If the verb ends in a consonant + *y*, change the *y* to *i* and add *-ed*.

worry     worried  
carry      carried

6. If the verb ends in a vowel + *y*, add *-ed*.  
(Do not change the *y* to *i*.)

play      played  
annoy     annoyed

Exceptions:

pay      paid  
lay      laid  
say      said

## 18 Spelling Rules for the Comparative (*-er*) and Superlative (*-est*) Forms of Adjectives

1. Add *-er* to one-syllable adjectives to form the comparative.  
Add *-est* to one-syllable adjectives to form the superlative.

cheap      cheaper      cheapest  
bright     brighter     brightest

2. If the adjective ends in *-e*, add *-r* or *-st*.

nice      nicer      nicest

3. If the adjective ends in a consonant + *y*, change *y* to *i* before you add *-er* or *-est*.

pretty     prettier     prettiest

Exception:

shy      shyer      shyest

4. If the adjective ends in a consonant-vowel-consonant combination (CVC), double the final consonant before adding *-er* or *-est*.

CVC  
↓ ↓ ↓  
b i g      bigger      biggest

However, do not double the consonant in words ending in *-w* or *-y*.

slow      slower      slowest  
coy      coyer      coyest

## 19 Spelling Rules for Adverbs Ending in *-ly*

1. Add *-ly* to the corresponding adjective.

nice      nicely  
quiet     quietly  
beautiful    beautifully

2. If the adjective ends in a consonant + *y*, change the *y* to *i* before adding *-ly*.

easy      easily

3. If the adjective ends in *-le*, drop the *e* and add *-y*.

possible    possibly

However, do not drop the *e* for other adjectives ending in *-e*.

extreme    extremely

Exception:

true      truly

4. If the adjective ends in *-ic*, add *-ally*.

basic      basically  
fantastic    fantastically

## 20 Contractions with Verb Forms

### 1. SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE, PRESENT PROGRESSIVE, AND IMPERATIVE

#### Contractions with *Be*

I am = I'm  
 you are = you're  
 he is = he's  
 she is = she's  
 it is = it's  
 we are = we're  
 you are = you're  
 they are = they're

I am not = I'm not  
 you are not = you're not or you aren't  
 he is not = he's not or he isn't  
 she is not = she's not or she isn't  
 it is not = it's not or it isn't  
 we are not = we're not or we aren't  
 you are not = you're not or you aren't  
 they are not = they're not or they aren't

#### Contractions with *Do*

do not = don't  
 does not = doesn't

#### SIMPLE PRESENT

I'm a student.  
 He's my teacher.  
 We're from Canada.

#### PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

I'm studying here.  
 He's teaching verbs.  
 We're living here.

#### SIMPLE PRESENT

She's not sick.  
 He isn't late.  
 We aren't twins.  
 They're not here.

#### PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

She's not reading.  
 He isn't coming.  
 We aren't leaving.  
 They're not playing.

#### SIMPLE PRESENT

They don't live here.  
 It doesn't snow much.

#### IMPERATIVE

Don't run!

### 2. SIMPLE PAST TENSE AND PAST PROGRESSIVE

#### Contractions with *Be*

was not = wasn't  
 were not = weren't

#### Contractions with *Do*

did not = didn't

#### SIMPLE PAST

He wasn't a poet.  
 They weren't twins.  
 We didn't see her.

#### PAST PROGRESSIVE

He wasn't singing.  
 They weren't sleeping.

### 3. FUTURE

#### Contractions with *Will*

I will = I'll  
 you will = you'll  
 he will = he'll  
 she will = she'll  
 it will = it'll  
 we will = we'll  
 you will = you'll  
 they will = they'll  
 will not = won't

#### FUTURE WITH *Will*

I'll take the train.  
 It'll be faster that way.  
 We'll go together.  
 He won't come with us.  
 They won't miss the train.

#### Contractions with *Be going to*

I am going to = I'm going to  
 you are going to = you're going to  
 he is going to = he's going to  
 she is going to = she's going to  
 it is going to = it's going to  
 we are going to = we're going to  
 you are going to = you're going to  
 they are going to = they're going to

#### FUTURE WITH *BE GOING TO*

I'm going to buy tickets tomorrow.  
 She's going to call you.  
 It's going to rain soon.  
 We're going to drive to Boston.  
 They're going to crash!