

Cigalle's Spelling Rules



Rule # 1

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

Eg. quail, quake, quality, quick

(Brand names like 'Qantas' do not count, they are exceptions)



Rule # 4

Vowels a, e, i, o, u usually say their name at the end of a word or a syllable.

Eg. baby, mee, siilent, goo, muusic,



Rule # 17

Also known as the "floss" rule:

The consonant letters in the word floss (f, l, s) are doubled after a short vowel.

fluff, bell, dress

Exceptions include:
bus, was, is and of

Other letters are doubled too. For example:
egg, inn, buzz, although these don't happen often

deiou



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Rule # 25

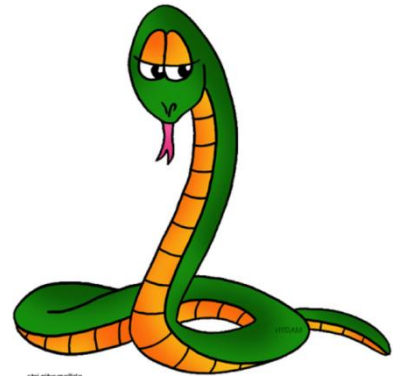
"ck" may be used only after a short vowel.

- back, sack
- deck, neck
- sick, trick
- sock, flock
- luck, truck



"ck" would not come after a long vowel or a consonant. For example:

- Break
- Snake
- Smoke
- Look
- Sneak
- Drink
- Thank



Exceptions:
picnic → picnicking
panic → panicking
trek → trekking
music, magic, rhythmic

The 5 Jobs of "E"

Job 1: 'e' at the end of words, makes the vowel say its name (also known as magic 'e')

- Tim → time
- hat → hate
- sit → site

Job 2: English words don't end in 'u' or 'v' → 'e' comes to the rescue

- blue
- vague
- have

Job 3: 'e' makes the 'c' and 'g' say its second sound

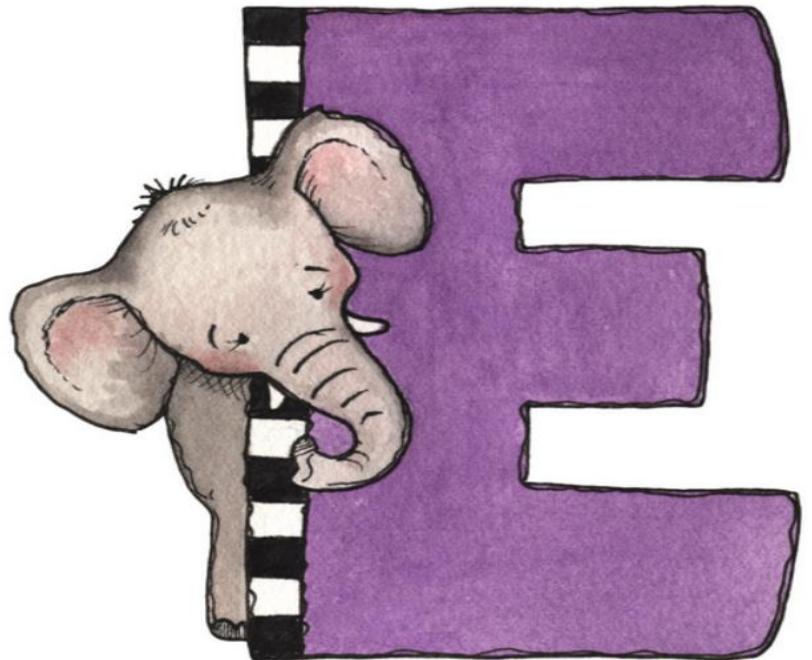
- chance
- charge

Job 4: Every syllable needs a vowel

- ta ble
- lit tle

Job 5: The 'e' is not needed-it has no job

- Are
- Some



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One One One Rule

When you have one syllable and one vowel, followed by one consonant after the vowel,

Simply double the vowel before the vowel ending (ed, er, est, ance, en)

For example:

- Hop → hopping
- Hop → hopper
- Swim → swimming
- Clip → clipper
- Flat → flatten



When words end with an 'e'

If a word ends in 'e' → drop the 'e' before a vowel ending

- Time → tim-er
- Hope → hop-ing
- Nerve → nerv-ous
- Come → com-ing

Keep the 'e' when words end with 'ce' or 'ge' and you are adding 'able' or 'ous'

For example:

- Notice → noticeable
- Courage → Courageous

exception:

- Age → ageing
- Dye → dyeing

Retain the 'e' when adding 'ly' or 'ment'

- sincere → sincerely
- amaze → amazement

Exceptions:

- due → duly
- true → truly
- argue → argument



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Silent Letters

We can't forget these pesky silent letters because 60% of English words have them. Why are they there?

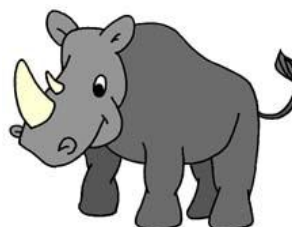
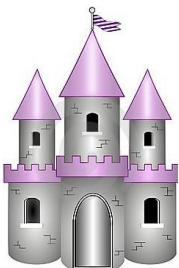
The English language has a mixed up history starting with German, followed by Latin speaking Christian monks, Norse speaking Vikings, William the conqueror and his French-speaking friends etc....

Furthermore, we used to pronounce some silent letters like 'knight' and 'walk' and over time we have dropped these sounds.



Practise with these examples:

gh <u>o</u> st	gh <u>a</u> stly	gh <u>e</u> tto	gh <u>e</u> rkin	gh <u>o</u> ulish		
kn <u>i</u> fe	kn <u>a</u> ck	kn <u>a</u> psack	kn <u>e</u> ad	kn <u>e</u> ee	kn <u>e</u> el	kn <u>i</u> ckers
kn <u>i</u> ght	kn <u>i</u> t	kn <u>o</u> b	kn <u>o</u> ck	kn <u>o</u> ll	kn <u>o</u> t	kn <u>o</u> w
kn <u>o</u> wledge	kn <u>u</u> ckle	gh <u>o</u> st	gh <u>e</u> rkin	gh <u>e</u> tto	gh <u>a</u> stly	gh <u>o</u> ulish
rh <u>u</u> barb	rh <u>e</u> toric	rh <u>e</u> umatism	rh <u>y</u> me	rh <u>y</u> thm	rh <u>i</u> noceros	
cal <u>m</u>	psal <u>m</u>	pal <u>m</u>	wal <u>k</u>	tal <u>k</u>	chal <u>k</u>	stal <u>k</u>
fr <u>i</u> end	gu <u>i</u> ld	gu <u>y</u>	muscl <u>e</u>	cal <u>f</u>		
gu <u>e</u> st	gu <u>i</u> lty	gu <u>e</u> ss	guarant <u>e</u> ee	guar <u>d</u>	guard <u>i</u> an	gu <u>i</u> nea
sc <u>i</u> ence	sc <u>i</u> ssors	sc <u>e</u> nt	sc <u>e</u> ne	sc <u>e</u> nario	sc <u>e</u> nic	desc <u>e</u> nd
com <u>b</u>	tom <u>b</u>	bo <u>m</u> b	thum <u>b</u>	num <u>b</u>	autum <u>n</u>	colum <u>n</u>
castl <u>e</u>	list <u>e</u> n	fast <u>e</u> n	whistl <u>e</u>	gristl <u>e</u>	jostl <u>e</u>	Wrestl <u>e</u>
thistl <u>e</u>	rustl <u>e</u>	bustl <u>e</u>	ballet	plum <u>b</u> er		
debt	doubt	doubtful	vag <u>u</u> e	rog <u>u</u> e	plag <u>u</u> e	biscuit
peopl <u>e</u>	environm <u>e</u> nt	governm <u>e</u> nt	bu <u>y</u>	marriage	parliam <u>e</u> nt	extra <u>o</u> rdinary
cupboar <u>d</u>	heart	aeropl <u>a</u> ne	aerob <u>i</u> cs	aerosol	aesthet <u>i</u> c	aer <u>i</u> al
wr <u>o</u> ng	wr <u>i</u> te	swor <u>d</u>	answ <u>e</u> r			
isl <u>e</u>	isl <u>a</u> nd	aisl <u>e</u>	Europ <u>e</u>			
honour	hour	heir	psychology	yacht	straight	



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Words that don't say their usual sound

Some letters don't say their usual sound. You just need to learn these.

- Of → sounds like ov
- Shoe →shoo
- Busy →bisy
- Business → bisness
- Women → wimen
- xylophone → zylophone



When choosing when to use 'c' or 'k' choose a 'c' if the sound is a hard 'k' sound followed by 'a, o, u'

- Cackle
- Cover
- Cull
- Camp
- Cotton



If writing 'c' followed by an 'l', always choose 'cl'

For example:

- Clap
- Cloud



Exception:

- Kleptomania
- klax

The 5 'er' Sounds

Remember this sentence:

“Her first nurse works early”

Remember the 'er' sound is the most common sound

The 'or' sound may say 'er' when w comes before or, as in:

- Works
- Worm
- World

