Apply the Rule — Spelling Practice

10 core spelling rules cover the vast majority of English spelling decisions. This worksheet gives one practice page per rule from the phonics-spelling-rules guide.

Name: _____ Date: _____

How to use this worksheet

1. Read the rule at the top of the page.
2. For rules 1-3: read the base word and the suffix being added, then write the correctly-spelled result on the line.
3. For rules 4-10: some words are split into two red chunks — say each chunk, blend them together, then write the complete word on the line. These rules are spelling facts to recognize, not suffixes to add.
4. Check your spelling against the printed word or the rule once you're done.

Example — this is what a correct answer looks like:

hop + ing -> **hopping**

Tip

Don't teach all 10 rules at once — the phonics-spelling-rules guide has a suggested teaching order tied to phonics stage (CVC, magic-e, digraphs, then suffixes).

Rule 1 — The Doubling Rule

Double the final consonant before a vowel suffix (short-vowel CVC words).

hop + ing -> _____

run + ing -> _____

sit + ing -> _____

big + er -> _____

hot + est -> _____

Rule 2 — Drop the E Rule

Drop the silent e before a vowel suffix (magic-e words).

make + ing -> _____

bake + ing -> _____

race + ing -> _____

drive + er -> _____

smile + ing -> _____

Rule 3 — Y to I Rule

Change y to i before most suffixes (but keep y before -ing).

baby + es -> _____

cry + ed -> _____

happy + er -> _____

carry + ed -> _____

Rule 4 — Q Always Needs U

Q is always followed by U in English words.

qu-een _____

qu-ick _____

qu-it _____

qu-est _____

qu-ilt _____

qu-iet _____

squeeze _____

request _____

Rule 5 — Soft C

C says its soft sound before e, i, or y; otherwise C says its hard sound.

c-ity _____	ice _____
c-ycle _____	m-ice _____
c-ent _____	f-ace _____
ceiling _____	d-ance _____

Rule 6 — Soft G

G often says its soft sound (as in jump) before e, i, or y.

g-em _____	l-arge _____
giraffe _____	age _____
g-ym _____	st-age _____
c-age _____	g-iant _____

Rule 7 — I Before E

I before E, except after C — for the long-E sound only.

I before E

believe _____ **p-iece** _____

br-ief _____ **y-ield** _____

E before I, after C

ceiling _____ **receipt** _____

deceive _____ **perceive** _____

Rule 8 — Final E After V

English words don't end in a bare V — add a silent e.

g-ive _____

l-ive _____

l-ove _____

above _____

active _____

twelve _____

shelve _____

d-ove _____

sh-ove _____

Rule 9 — CK After Short Vowel

Use CK (not K or C) right after a short vowel at the end of a syllable.

bl-ack _____

br-ick _____

cl-ock _____

d-eck _____

d-uck _____

fl-ick _____

kn-ock _____

qu-ick _____

s-ick _____

st-uck _____

tr-ick _____

Rule 10 — FLOSS Rule

Double F, L, S (and usually Z) at the end of a one-syllable word after a short vowel.

cl-iff _____	cl-ass _____
st-uff _____	pr-ess _____
b-ell _____	l-oss _____
h-ill _____	m-iss _____
sp-ell _____	f-uzz _____