Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words with more than one syllable

For words that end in one vowel then one consonant, the final consonant is usually doubled before a suffix beginning with a vowel, if the last syllable is stressed.

The consonant letter is NOT doubled before adding a suffix is the last syllable is unstressed.

Examples:

forgetting

forgotten

preferred

gardening

gardener

limiting

limited

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

The /I/ sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words

At the end of the word, the letter y makes a long vowel sound (*e – happy or i – spy*).

In the middle of words, the letter *y* makes a short vowel sound (*i – myth*).

Examples:

myth

Egypt

mystery

pyramid

very

happy

party

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

The /ʌ/ sound spelt ou

The alternative grapheme for the /ʌ/ sound, pronounced “uh” is spelt *ou*.

Examples:

young

trouble

double

country

touch

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

More prefixes (dis-, mis-, in-, il-, im-, ir-)

The prefixes dis-, mis-, in-, il-, im-, ir- are simply added to the root word to modify or change it's meaning.

dis- means removal.

mis- means wrong or false.

in-/il-/im-/ir- mean not or without.

Examples:

disappoint

misbehave

immature

illegal

irregular

incorrect

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

More prefixes (re-, sub-, inter-, super-, anti-, auto-)

The prefixes dis-, mis-, in-, il-, im-, ir- are simply added to the root word to modify or change it's meaning.

re- means again.

sub- means at a lower position.

inter- means between or among.

super- means over, above, beyond or greater in quantity.

anti- means opposing, against or opposite.

auto- means self.

Examples:

reassure

subheading

interact

superficial

antisocial

automatic

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

The suffix -ation

Suffixes are letters that can be added to the end of words to change their meaning.

Adding the suffix -ation, turns a verb into a noun.

'Inform' becomes 'information'.

If the word ends with 'ne', 've' or 're', drop the 'e' then add -ation.

'Prepare' becomes 'preparation'.

Examples:

observation

information

adoration

sensation

preparation

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

The suffix -ly

Suffixes are letters that can be added to the end of words to change their meaning.

Adding the suffix -ly, turns an adjective into an adverb. These words will now tell our readers how something is being done, e.g. how did he move? He moved slowly or quickly.

'nice' becomes 'nicely'

If the word ends with 'y', the 'y' becomes an 'i', and then add –ly.

'happy' becomes 'happily'

If the word ends with 'le', drop the 'le' and add –ly.

'terrible' becomes 'terribly'

Examples:

sadly

completely

usually

finally

comically

happily

terribly

nicely

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Words with endings like /ʒə/ or /tʃə/

With this rule, you need to listen out for words that are pronounced with the 'ture' and 'sure' sounds.

Look out for exceptions, such as 'teacher'. If the root word ends with 'ch' (teach), the word ending is 'er'.

Use your posh voice to hear –ture or –sure.

Examples:

measure

treasure

pleasure

creature

picture

nature

furniture

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Endings which sound like /ʒən/

The 'shun' sound can be spelt in three different ways. Which one you use depends on the last letter or letters of the root word.

When the root word ends with 'd' or 'se' the suffix used is usually -sion:

expand – expansion.

Examples:

television

confession

discussion

expression

expansion

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

The suffix -ous

A suffix is a letter or a group of letters that can be added to a word to change its meaning.

Adding the suffix -ous turns a noun into an adjective. It means ‘full of’.

When added to a word ending in ‘e’, we drop the ‘e’.

Adventure becomes ‘adventurous’.

When added to a word ending in ‘y’, we replace it with a ‘i’.

Fury become ‘furious’.

When added to a word ending in ‘our’, ‘our’ becomes ‘or’.

Humour becomes ‘humorous’.

Examples:

mountainous

humorous

dangerous

famous

various

adventurous

furious

poisonous

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Ending which sound like /ʃən/, spelt –tion, –sion, –ssion, –cian

The 'shun' sound can be spelt in three different ways. Which one you use depends on the last letter or letters of the root word.

If the root word ends with 'c' or 'cs' use the -cian suffix: magic - magician

When the root word ends with 'd' or 'se' the suffix used is usually -sion: expand - expansion

If the root word ends with 't' or 'te' use -tion: invent - invention

Examples:

invention

extension

discussion

musician

invention

action

hesitation

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Words with the /k/ sound spelt ch

There is a Greek version of the k phoneme.

It is sometimes seen in the English language; it is spelt ‘ch’.

We can hear the ‘c’ but the ‘h’ afterwards is silent.

Examples:

echo

architect

scheme

chorus

ache

chemist

school

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Words with the /ʃ/ sound spelt ch

There is a French version of the ‘sh’ phoneme.

It is sometimes used in the English language; it is spelt ‘ch’.

Examples:

chef

brochure

chalet

machine

chute

quiche

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Words with the /g/ sound spelt -gue

There is French version of the hard ‘g’, as in, ‘big’.

This is sometimes seen in the English language. We can hear the ‘g’ but the ‘ue’ afterwards is silent.

Examples:

league

tongue

vague

rogue

intrigue

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Words with the /k/ sound spelt -que

In phonics, the ‘qu’, as in ‘queen’, makes a ‘qw’ sound. However, in French, it makes a ‘k’ sound, as in, ‘king’.

There are a few words we’ve taken from the French language that include this sound at the end, with a silent ‘e’.

There aren’t many of these words.

Examples:

unique

antique

cheque

boutique

mosque

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Words with the /s/ sound spelt sc

This Roman language was Latin and many of our words have Latin origins.

There is a Latin version of the ‘s’ sound that is sometimes seen in the English language; it is spelt ‘sc’.

We can hear the ‘s’ but the ‘c’ afterwards is silent.

Examples:

science

scene

ascent

discipline

fascinate

scissors

crescent

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Words with the /eI/ sound spelt ei, eigh or ey

This is rare grapheme phoneme correspondence and not generally the best bet for the long eI phoneme.

There are a few high frequency words which are important to learn.

Examples:

vein

weigh

they

neighbour

obey

eight

weight

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Possessive apostrophe with plural words

You add an ‘s’ if something belongs to someone.

If the owner is singular, the apostrophe is placed BEFORE the ‘s’.

If there is more than one owner, the apostrophe is placed AFTER the ‘s’.

Examples:

girls’

boys’

babies’

children’s

men’s

mice’s

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z