

How to Spell Like  
a Spelling Bee  
Winner

Evan Wecksell

Testing Mom

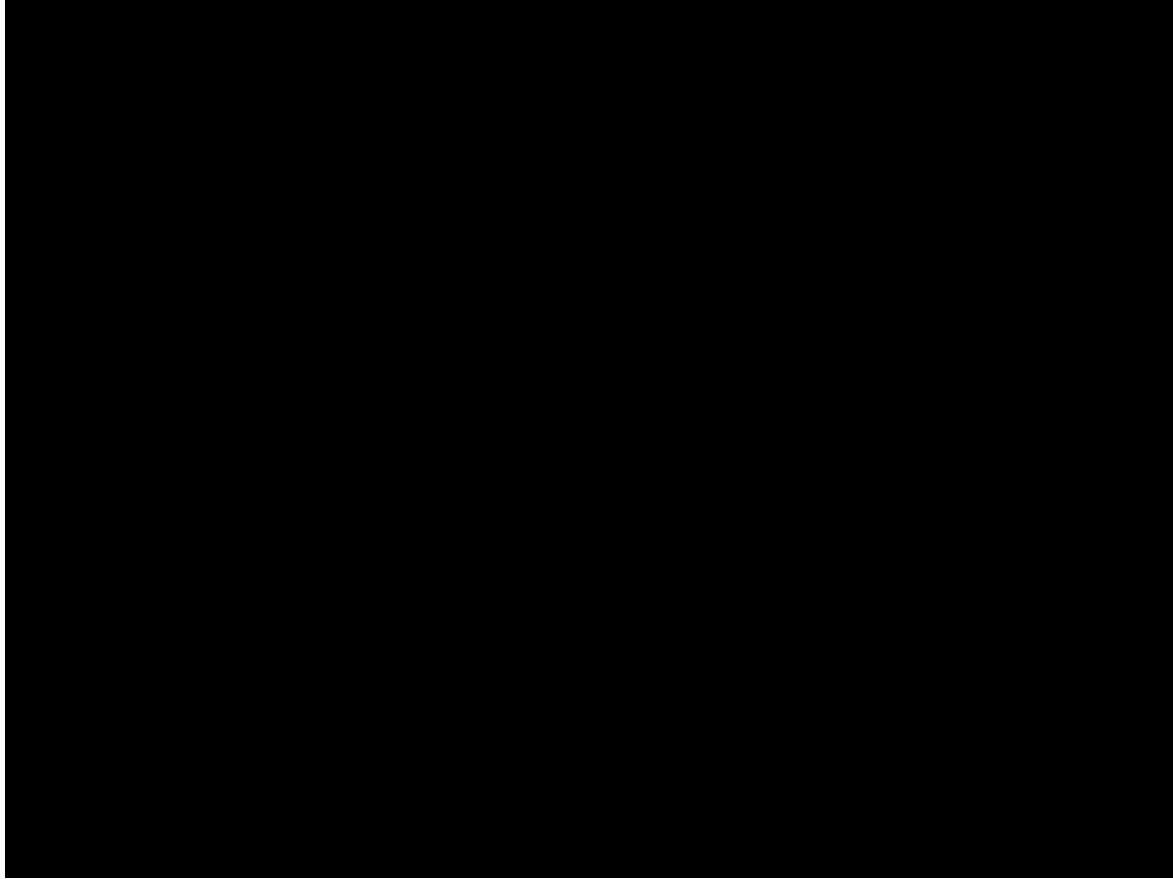
# Why is spelling hard sometimes?

- *Words are often spelled differently from how they're pronounced.*
- *Certain combinations of letters sound one way in one word and completely different in another.*
- *Some letters sometimes aren't even pronounced at all!*



<https://www.tckpublishing.com/how-to-spell-better/>

What does Akeelah learn?



# The Best Ways to Build Spelling

## 1) DRILLING

- Write each word five times
- Mnemonic devices (ex: "The princiPAL is your PAL.")

## 2) KNOW YOUR RULES

Twenty-Four Spelling Rules

Source: [Peterson's](#)





# Spelling Rules

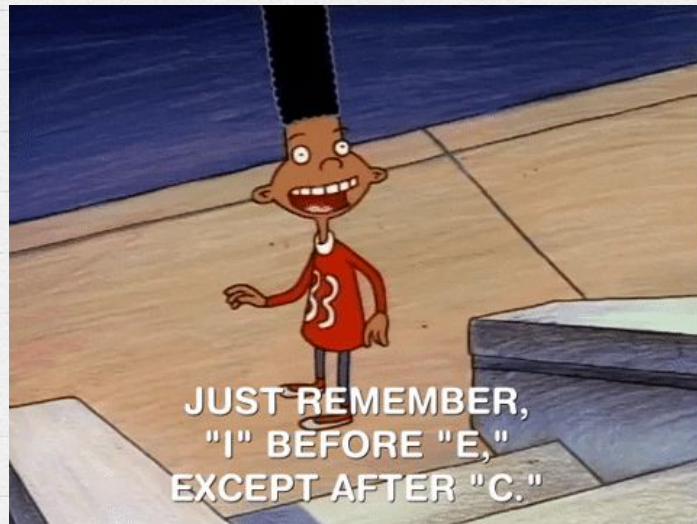
## Rule #1

**i before e**

**Except after c (ex: receive)**

**... or when sounded like ay**

**Ex: neighbor, weigh**



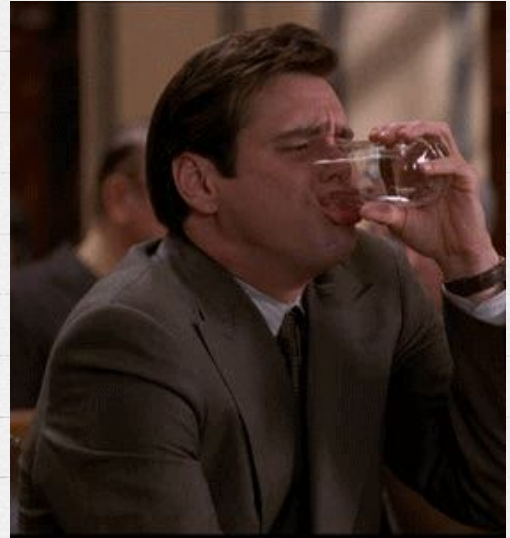
Exceptions: neither, leisure, foreigner, seized, weird, heights...

# Spelling Rules

## Rule #2

If a word ends in **y** preceded by a vowel, keep the **y** when adding a suffix.

*Ex: day, days; attorney, attorneys*



# Spelling Rules

## Rule #3

If a word ends in **y** preceded by a consonant, change the **y** to **i** before adding a suffix

*Ex: try, tries, tried;  
lady, ladies; baby, babies*



Exceptions: fly, flying; boy, boyish



# Spelling Rules

## Rule #4

Silent **e** at the end of a word is usually dropped before a suffix beginning with a vowel

Ex: *dine + ing = dining*

*locate + ion = location*

*offense + ive = offensive*





# Spelling Rules

## Rule #4 (cont)

Exceptions:

Words ending in **ce** and **ge** retain **e**  
before **-able** and **-ous**

*Ex: peace + able = peaceable*  
*courage + ous = courageous*



# Spelling Rules

## Rule #5

**Silent e is usually kept before a suffix beginning with a consonant**

**Ex: *care + less = careless***  
***game + ster = gamester***  
***one + ness = oneness***



# Spelling Rules

## Rule #6

**Some exceptions of rules 4 & 5  
to memorize**

truly, duly, awful, argument,  
wholly, ninth, mileage,  
dyeing, acreage, canoeing





## Spelling Rules

### Rule #7

A one-syllable word ending in a **single consonant preceded by a single vowel** doubles the final consonant before a suffix beginning with a vowel or before the suffix **-y**

Examples:

hit, hitting; drop, dropped;  
big, biggest; mud; muddy

But:

help, helping (*two consonants at end*)  
need, needing, needy (*final consonant preceded by two vowels*)

# Spelling Rules

## Rule #8

A word with more than one syllable that **accents the last syllable** and that ends in a **single consonant preceded by a single vowel** doubles the final consonant when adding a suffix beginning with a vowel.

Examples:

begin, beginner;  
admit, admitted

But:

enter, entered  
(accent is not on last syllable)



# Spelling Rules

## Rule #9

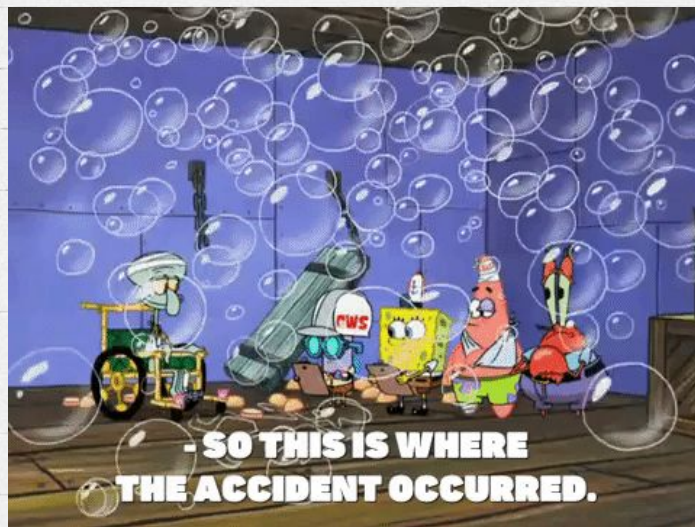
A word ending in **er** or **ur** doubles the **r** in the past tense if the word is accented on the last syllable.

Examples:

occur, occurred;

prefer, preferred;

transfer, transferred





# Spelling Rules

## Rule #10

A word ending in **er** does NOT double the r in the past tense if the accent falls BEFORE the last syllable.

Examples:

answered, answered;

offer, offered;

differ, differed



# Spelling Rules

## Rule #11

When **-full** is added to the end of a noun, the final **l** is dropped.

Examples:

hope**ful**

cheer**ful**

cup**ful**



# Spelling Rules

## Rule #12

All words beginning with **over** are one word.

Examples:

overcast

overcharge

overhear





# Spelling Rules

## Rule #13

All words with the prefix  
**self** are hyphenated.

Examples:

self-control  
self-defense  
self-evident



# Spelling Rules

## Rule #14

The letter **q** is always followed by **u**.

Examples:

quiz

bouquet

acquire





# Spelling Rules

## Rule #15

**Numbers from twenty-one to ninety-nine are hyphenated.**





## Spelling Rules

### Rule #16

Per cent is never hyphenated.

It can be written as:

one word (**percent**) or

two words (**per cent**)



# Spelling Rules

## Rule #17

**Welcome is spelled with one **l**.**



# Spelling Rules

## Rule #18

**All right** is always two words.

**Alright** is a nonstandard form of English and should not be used.





# Spelling Rules

## Rule #19

**Already** means prior to some specified time.

**All ready** means completely ready.



Example:

By the time I was *all ready* to go to the play, the tickets were *already* sold out.

## Spelling Rules

### Rule #20

**Altogether** means  
entirely.

**All together** means in  
sum or collectively.



Example:

There are *altogether* too many people to seat in this room  
when we are *all together*.

# Spelling Rules

## Rule #21

**Their** is the possessive of they.

**They're** is the contraction of they are.

**There** means at that place.



Ex: **They're** going to put **their** books over **there**.



# Spelling Rules

## Rule #22

**Your** is the possessive of you.

**You're** is the contraction for  
you are.



Ex: **You're** certainly planning to leave **your** muddy boots outside.

# Spelling Rules

## Rule #23

**Whose** is the possessive of **who**.

**Who's** is the contraction for **who**  
**is**.



Ex: Do you know **who's** ringing the doorbell or **whose** car is in the street?



# Spelling Rules

## Rule #24

**Its** is the possessive of it.

**It's** is the contraction for it is.



Ex: **It's** I who lost the letter and **its** envelope.



# SPELLING PRACTICE

**Look for errors in spelling.**

**Find the one with the error.**

**If you find no error, choose D.**



## SPELLING PRACTICE

1)

- a) In the teacher's absence, the pupils had an eraser fight.
- b) The laws of apartheid prohibited marriage between people of different races.
- c) We may be haveing a fire drill this afternoon.
- d) No mistakes.

## SPELLING PRACTICE

2)

- a) The Indian maiden carried her papoose strapped to a board on her back.
- b) Christopher Columbus is credited with the discovery of America.
- c) Innocent victims should not have to stand trial.
- d) No mistakes.



## SPELLING PRACTICE

- 3) a) Mel's position in the chess match was not advantageous, and he was nervous.
- b) The welcome committee set up the registration booth by the entrance to the banquet hall.
- c) The manager was eager to review her subordinate's recommendation for increasing company revenue.
- d) No mistakes.

## SPELLING PRACTICE

- 4)
- a) Meet me at the bus depot promptly at four.
  - b) On Saturday, we will have dinner at a restaurant.
  - c) The whipping post was in use as punishment in Delaware until recent times.
  - d) No mistakes.

## SPELLING PRACTICE

- 5) a) The shepherd would be lonely without his dog.
- b) The experiment served to confirm the hypothesis.
- c) The divinity fudge was truly deliscious.
- d) No mistakes.



## SPELLING PRACTICE

- 6) a) The golfer took a break after the ninth hole.
- b) Let me acquaint you with the new rules.
- c) The slugger wields a heavy bat.
- d) No mistakes.



## SPELLING PRACTICE

- ↗
- a) Biology is always a laboratory science.
  - b) The short story is really a memoir.
  - c) My neice will enter college in the fall.
  - d) No mistakes.

## SPELLING PRACTICE

- 8)
- a) The currency of Mexico is the peso.
  - b) The detective had the perfect disguise.
  - c) Is there anything one can buy for a nickel?
  - d) No mistakes.



## SPELLING PRACTICE

- 9) a) Our senator is a staunch supporter of the president.
- b) I heard a rumer that our principal is about to retire.
- c) A surgeon must have steady hands.
- d) No mistakes.

## SPELLING PRACTICE

10)

- a) To grow crops in the desert, we must irrigate daily.
- b) Most convenience stores have very long hours.
- c) There was a lovely centerpiece on this table.
- d) No mistakes.

# Thanks!

## Any questions?

You can find me at:

- x @evantutors
- x @TestingMom

