Printable Spelling Rules Chart: Reference and Practice

Rubric and Checking Guide

Qualitative rubric key; text-only.

Rubric: (1) Names the rule that matches the word's structure. (2) Writes the spelling after applying the rule. (3) Gives a one-sentence reason that references the rule. (4) Notes any exception or valid alternative spelling. (5) Checks the result against the example words for that rule. (6) For labels, keeps baseline and midline consistent and accepts any legible letter style.

Three-pass check: first confirm the rule statement matches the word's structure; second confirm the spelling follows the rule and the example pattern; third confirm the reason sentence names the rule and any exception. If a word has a valid alternative, check that the alternative is stated and explained.

Label check: x-height is baseline to midline; accept any legible style that keeps baseline and midline consistent.

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Complete worked example / separate answer key

Apply the chart to the word happy plus ness. Name the rule, write the result, and give a one-sentence reason.

Answer: Rule 4 applies: change final y to i before a suffix unless the suffix begins with i. Happy becomes happiness. Reason: the suffix ness begins with n, so the final y changes to i. Check: the result matches the pattern in happiness and the reason names the rule.

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Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Apply the chart to begin plus ing. Name the rule, write the result, and give a one-sentence reason.

Answer: Beginning. Rule 2 applies: double the final consonant before a vowel suffix when the word ends in a single consonant after a single vowel and the final syllable is stressed. Reason: begin ends in a single consonant after a single vowel and the final syllable is stressed, so the n doubles before ing.

Reason: The base word begin ends in a single consonant n after a single vowel i, and the final syllable is stressed. The suffix ing begins with a vowel. Rule 2 therefore doubles the n.

Check: Check that the final syllable is stressed, that the final consonant is single, and that the suffix begins with a vowel. Compare with running and occurred.

Task 2

Apply the chart to hope plus ing. Name the rule, write the result, and give a one-sentence reason.

Answer: Hoping. Rule 3 applies: drop a final silent e before a suffix that begins with a vowel. Reason: hope ends in silent e and ing begins with a vowel, so the e is dropped.

Reason: The base word hope ends in silent e. The suffix ing begins with a vowel. Rule 3 drops the e before the vowel suffix.

Check: Check that the final e is silent and that the suffix begins with a vowel. Compare with making and hoping.

Task 3

Apply the chart to box plus es. Name the rule, write the result, and give a one-sentence reason.

Answer: Boxes. Rule 5 applies: add es after s, x, z, ch, and sh. Reason: box ends in x, so es is added to form the plural.

Reason: The singular noun box ends in x. Rule 5 adds es after x to form the plural.

Check: Check the final letter of the singular noun. If it is s, x, z, ch, or sh, add es. Compare with churches and dishes.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Apply the chart to carry plus ing. Name the rule, write the result, and give a one-sentence reason.

Answer: Carrying. Rule 4 applies: change final y to i before a suffix unless the suffix begins with i. Reason: the suffix ing begins with i, so the final y stays.

Reason: The base word carry ends in y. The suffix ing begins with i. Rule 4 keeps the y when the suffix begins with i.

Check: Check the suffix's first letter. If it is i, keep the y. Compare with carried and happiness.

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Worked example, Task 1, Task 2, Task 3, Task 4 / Separate Answer Sheet: Model Answers for the Four Practice Items

Answer key; not a practice sheet.

Item	Rule	Result	Reason (one sentence)
(1) begin + ing	Rule 2	Beginning	begin ends in a single consonant after a single vowel and the final syllable is stressed, so the n doubles before ing.
(2) hope + ing	Rule 3	Hoping	hope ends in silent e and ing begins with a vowel, so the e is dropped.
(3) box + es	Rule 5	Boxes	box ends in x, so es is added to form the plural.
(4) carry + ing	Rule 4	Carrying	the suffix ing begins with i, so the final y stays.
Worked example: happy + ness	Rule 4	Happiness	the suffix ness begins with n, so the final y changes to i.

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Worked example / Junction Diagram: Base Word + Suffix with Rule Applied

Worked example happy + ness; reference only.

Step	Base word	Suffix	Rule applied at junction
1. Write base and suffix separately	happy	ness	—
2. Name the rule	happy	ness	Rule 4: change final y to i before a suffix unless the suffix begins with i.
3. Apply the rule	happi	ness	y→i because ness begins with n.
4. Check against examples	happiness	—	Matches happiness pattern.
5. Reason sentence	—	—	The suffix ness begins with n, so the final y changes to i.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Names the rule that matches the word's structure.
- [ ] Writes the spelling after applying the rule.
- [ ] Gives a one-sentence reason that references the rule.
- [ ] Notes any exception or valid alternative spelling.
- [ ] Checks the result against the example words for that rule.
- [ ] For labels, keeps baseline and midline consistent and accepts any legible letter style.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?