

DIRECTIONS: Read each section, then do the practice exercises that follow.

PART A – Do you spell certain words with *ei* or *ie*?

Useful Tips

- "I before E except after C or when sounded like A as in neighbour or weigh."
i before *e*: believe, chief, field, frieze, niece, relief, sieve, yield
e before *i*: ceiling, conceit, deceive, freight, eight, receive, sleigh, vein
- There are exceptions to the rule above: Conscience, counterfeit, either, foreign, forfeit, height, leisure, neither, science, seize, species, sufficient, and weird are all words that break the "I before E" rule.

Practice

Choose the correct spelling (ei or ie) of each word pair and write your choice in the space below.

1. Make sure you get some food with your friends/freinds.
2. The amount of work she did was insufficeint/insufficient.
3. I waited to receive/recieve your phone call for nine hours.
4. I want to beleive/believe their story, but the facts don't add up.
5. The piece/peice of pie that he gave me was way smaller than yours.
6. I had great difficulty finding the receipt/reciept for the items we bought.
7. It was such a releif/relief to have a hot shower after our camping trip.
8. They are the most stuck up, conceited/concieted people I have ever met.
9. He gives me so much greif/grief whenever I come over to visit.
10. She shrieked/shreiked when the cat jumped out from the nearby bush.

PART B – Spelling Singular and Plural Nouns

Useful Tips

- When a noun is singular, that means there is only one (for example: car, book, train, apple)
- When a noun is plural, that means there is more than one (for example: cars, books, trains, apples). Nouns are often made plural by adding an "s". Nouns that end with the letter ch, s, shz, x, or z are made plural by adding an "es". For example: church becomes churches and buzz becomes buzzes

Practice

Choose the correct spelling of each noun pair and write your choice in the space below.

1. Take as many cup/cups from the shelf as you can.
2. The box/boxes is located in the garage, next to the vacuum cleaner.
3. While you're in Ireland, make sure you visit some of the ancient church/churches in the countryside.
4. Her class/classes of students will be in after lunch.
5. Several farm/farms need to have new fences installed.

PART C – Singular or Plural Verbs?

Useful Tips

- A singular subject gets the verb stem plus *s* (for example: he sits, he trips, she fits)
- A plural subject gets the verb stem without *s* (for example: we sit, we trip, they fit)

Practice

Choose the correct verb (singular or plural) from each noun pair and write your choice in the space below.

1. He suffer/suffers whenever he tries to learn how to skateboard.

2. The story begin/begins with a description of the landscape.
3. We slip/slips whenever there is ice on the patio.
4. I fight/fights for those who cannot defend themselves.
5. She bind/binds her board properly, so as to avoid unnecessary injuries.

PART D – Suffixes for words ending with *e*

Useful Tip

A suffix is an ending that's added to a base word in order to form a new word. For example: Interest + ing = interesting, drop + let = droplet, noise + y = noisy. How do you deal with a word that ends in "e" when adding a suffix to the word?

- Drop the final "e" when the suffix you are adding starts with a vowel (A, E, I, O, U), but keep the final "e" when the suffix you are adding begins with a consonant (a speech sound that is not a vowel).

For example: Love + able becomes loveable while hate + ing becomes hating

Practice

Join the following words together and write your answer in the space below.

1. Make + ing =
2. Absolute = ly
 - absolutely
3. Take + ing =
4. Grade + ing =
5. Spite + ful =
6. Free + ing
7. Fake + ing =
8. Manage + ment =

PART E – Suffixes for words ending in consonants

Useful Tips

Adding suffixes to words ending in a consonant presents a different challenge.

- When the suffix you are adding begins with a consonant, leave the final consonant in the word alone, but when the suffix you are adding begins with a vowel, usually you double the final consonant in the word.

For example:

Commit + ment = commitment, but commit + ed = committed

- There are exceptions to the rules. Don't double the last consonant if the accent is not on the last syllable like with profit + ed = profited. Also, words ending in a single vowel followed by an "l" have the "l" doubled before adding the suffix, like with travel + ing = travelling but veer + ing = veering.

Practice

Join the following words together:

1. Bargain + ing =

6. Hollow + ing =

2. Spur + ed

7. Throw + ing =

3. Start + ing =

8. Market + able =

4. Loiter + ing

9. Defer + ed =

5. Swim + ing =

10. Fame + ous =

PART F – Suffixes after a word ending in y

Useful Tips

When a word ends in y look to see if there is a vowel or a consonant immediately before it.

- If the word ends in a vowel + y, the base word doesn't change. For example: delay + ed = delayed or employ + ment = employment.
- If the word ends in a consonant + y, when you add any suffix (except "ing"), change the y to an i.

For example: pity + ful = pitiful or reply + ed = replied, but reply + ing = replying

Practice

Join the following words together:

1. Empty + ed =
2. Carry + ing =
3. Empty + ing =
4. Carry + ed =
5. Happy + ness =
6. Pity + ful =
7. Supply + er =
8. Busy + ly =
9. Bury + al =
10. Destroy + ing =

PART G – Prefixes: adding dis- or mis- to the beginning of a word.

Useful Tips

- Just add the prefix to the word. No other changes are required!
Mis + demeanour = misdemeanour
- There are no exceptions to this rule.

Practice

1. Mis + spoke
2. Dis + agree
3. Dis + array
4. Mis + heard
5. Mis + stepped

PART H – Putting your skills to the test

This paragraph has many errors in it. Circle each one and correct the mistake in the spaces provided below:

When readding a passage of text to correct it for errors it is always desireable to read slowwly and closly. Many errors aren't noticable the first time if you mis-read or are raceing through without reading the passage thoroughly. To truely catch everything, you must not mis-learn what you read in this workbook, niether should you decieve yourself about how you are doing. Profitting from your effort will be easyer if you actualy apply yourself merryly to your task. Remember: Continually striveing to improve is the secret to success!

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