

Regular Word Changes

Noun Changes.

Regular plural changes in nouns should be known so that it is not necessary to show such plural forms on a spelling list. Irregular plurals are shown if they are common.

Most nouns add s to form the plural.

kind	kinds	step	steps
lot	lots	time	times
number	numbers	wood	woods

But if the noun ends in sh, ch, s, r, or z, the s sound alone cannot be added. So -es is added.

class	classes	peach	peaches
dish	dishes	tax	taxes
inch	inches	wish	wishes

Some nouns ending in the sound of s already have an e on the end. So only the s is added to them, but an extra syllable is sounded.

horse	horses	piece	pieces
house	houses	place	places
		rose	roses

If the noun ends in o with a consonant before it, add -es.

potato	potatoes	tomato	tomatoes
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(To be quite sure of the plural of a noun in o, see the dictionary)

Some nouns ending in f or fe change the f or fe to v and add -es.

calf	calves	leaf	leaves
half	halves	self	selves
		wife	wives

Most nouns ending in y change the y to i and add -es.

baby	babies	copy	copies
berry	berries	lady	ladies
cherry	cherries	party	parties
city	cities	story	stories

But if the y has a vowel before it, add only s.

day	days	joy	joys
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Adjective Changes

If the regular changes are known which make the comparative and superlative form of adjectives, all such changes can be spelled correctly.

Most adjectives make the comparative and superlative by merely adding –er and –est.

cold	colder	coldest
rich	richer	richest

Adjectives ending in a consonant preceded by a short vowel double that consonant when adding these endings.

Big	bigger	biggest
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Adjectives ending in y change the y to i before these endings.

early	earlier	earliest
easy	easier	easiest
pretty	prettier	prettiest

Most adjectives form adverbs by the addition of –ly, without other change.

near	nearly	tame	tamely
real	really	usual	usually

Verb Changes.

Verb changes are very irregular. The following rules apply to most verbs, but many verbs follow these rules only partly and then have some irregular form or forms. To be sure, use the dictionary.

Most verbs add –ed for the past and ing for the present participle.

cross	crossed	crossing
laugh	laughed	laughing
sew	sewed	sewing
spell	spelled	spelling

But verbs ending in e add only d for the past and drop the e when –ing is added.

change	changed	changing
dance	danced	dancing
hope	hoped	hoping
live	lived	living
move	moved	moving

Verbs ending in y, preceded by a consonant, change y to i when adding –es or –ed but do not change it when adding –ing.

carry	carries	carrying	carried
cry	cries	crying	cried
fly	flies	flying	
study	studies	studying	studied
try	tries	trying	tried

If the y is preceded by a vowel, it is not changed.

buy	buys	buying	(bought)
play	plays	playing	played

Verbs ending in a consonant preceded by a short vowel, double that consonant when adding ing.

begin	beginning	run	running
cut	cutting	sit	sitting
get	getting	slip	slipping
let	letting	stop	stopping
put	putting	swim	swimming

Work Written By:

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