

## SPELLING GENERALIZATIONS

### A. Consonants

1. wh, th, ch, sh, ng (consonant digraphs) are single consonant sounds which are spelled by two letters (white, with, child, fish, thing).
2. The j sound is a consonant sound and is spelled by j (just, jar); (also see soft g).
3. The y sound is a consonant sound and is spelled by y (yard, yell) (also see i).
4. The k sound variations:
  - a. usually spelled k or c (card, kitten)
  - b. can be spelled ck (clock)
  - c. can be spelled ch (Christmas)
  - d. ks can be spelled by x (six)
  - e. kw usually spelled by qu (queen)
5. s sometimes spells z sound.
6. c is usually soft, or spells the s sound before e, i, and y (spells k sound before a, o, and u).
7. g is usually soft, or spells the j sound before e, i, and y (spells hard g sound before a, o, u, or a consonant or when it is at the end of a word).
8. The th sound, voiced or unvoiced, is a single consonant sound spelled by th (thorn, gather).
9. The ngk sound is sometimes spelled by nk (bank, tank).
10. Some one-syllable words end in a double consonant, although we hear only one sound. Words of two or more syllables often have these consonant twins within the word, although we hear only one consonant sound (hill, attend).
11. The gh consonant combination is often silent in words (night, thought).
12. Consonants l, k, and w are sometimes silent in words (write, know).
13. The consonant b is sometimes silent (climb, thumb).
14. There are many (other than gh, l, k, w, and b) silent consonants which occur in consistent patterns (listen, wreck).

### B. Changes in tense, number, degree, etc.

1. Common inflections:
  - a. To form the plural of most nouns, add s or es to the singular (birds, ashes).
  - b. To form the simple past tense of most verbs, add d or ed to the first person (played, continued).
  - c. In some words, change y to i and add d (try, tried).
  - d. To form the present participle, many verbs add ing to the present stem of the verb (doing, singing).
  - e. One syllable adjectives usually add r or er to form the comparative. Add st or est to form the superlative (kinder, biggest).

