

tch, ck, dge Generalization

Immediately after a short vowel in a one-syllable base word:

- final /ch/ is spelled *tch*
- final /k/ is spelled *ck*
- final /j/ is spelled *dge*

Ask three questions:

1. Is there only one syllable?
2. Is there a short vowel?
3. Is the end sound (immediately after the short vowel) /ch/, /k/, or /j/?


pitch rock edge

The short vowels are silently defended by the *t* in *tch*, the *c* in *ck*, and by the *d* in *dge*.

Doubling Rule

When a base word has *one syllable*, *has one vowel*, and *has one consonant at the end*, **double** the final consonant before adding a vowel suffix.

CHECKPOINTS

- base word {
- 1 syllable
 - 1 vowel
 - 1 consonant at the end
 - vowel suffix

saddest swimming trotted
runner

Dropping Rule

When a base word ends in *silent-e*, drop the *e* before adding a *vowel suffix*.

CHECKPOINTS

1. base word ends in *e*
2. vowel suffix

admiring rider
slimy piled

Changing Rule

When a base word ends in a consonant and final *y*, change the *y* to *i* before adding a suffix that does not begin with *i*.

CHECKPOINTS

1. final *y*
2. consonant before *y*
3. suffix does not begin with *i*

pennies clumsier
silliest sloppily