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A

How to memorize spelling rules and exceptions

- All vowels have a short and a long sound.
- The long sound is like the name of the letter: the *in* is long, while the *in* is short; the *in* is long, while the *in* is short; the

continued

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- In most cases, a final **s** is changed to **z** when adding a suffix:
- However, the **s** remains when an **ed** ending is added:
- Generally, the silent **e** is dropped when the suffix begins with a vowel:
- However, when the word has a soft **c** (making the S sound) or a soft **g** (the J sound) just before the silent **e**, the **e** is kept when adding the suffixes **ing** or **ing**:
- Other exceptions in which the **e** is not dropped:
- Meanwhile, the final **y** normally remains when the suffix begins with a consonant:
- As an exception, for words ending in **ay**, the final **y** is dropped when adding any suffix.
- Further exceptions:

(although the word ninety follows the usual rule)

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| B | A | A | :C | DC | A |
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- **ay** vs. **ey** endings (**may**, **may** vs. **may**, **may**)
 - **ay** vs. **ey** endings (**may**, **may** vs. **may**, **may**)
 - Spelling of the final syllable in words (**may**, **may**, **may**)
 - Words containing silent letters (**may**, **may**, **may**, **may**)
 - Words in which sounds are not pronounced clearly (**may**, **may**, **may**, **may**)
 - Words of Greek origin that end with a pronounced **y** (**may**, **may**, **may**)
 - Words with double letters (**may**, **may**, **may**, **may**, **may**)

For more help with language skills, contact the Academic Skills Centre