

ROMALDA SPALDING'S 29 RULES CREATE A  
LOGICAL PRESENTATION OF THE INFORMATION  
WE NEED TO BE GOOD SPELLERS.

1. The letter **q** is always followed by **u** and together they say /kw/. The **u** is not considered a vowel here.
2. The letter **c** before **e**, **i**, or **y** says /s/ (**cent**, **city**, **cycle**), but followed by any other letter says /k/ (**cat**, **cot**, **cut**).
3. The letter **g** before **e**, **i**, or **y** may say /j/ (**page**, **giant**, **gym**), but followed by any other letters says /g/ (**gate**, **go**, **gust**). The letters **e** and **i** following **g** do not always make the **g** say /j/ (**get**, **girl**, **give**).
4. Vowels **a**, **e**, **o**, and **u** usually say their names/long sounds (**a**, **e**, **o**, **u**) at the end of a syllable (**na** vy, **me**, **o** pen, **mu** sic).  
  
(These are referred to as open syllables.) This rule helps students know how to divide unfamiliar vowel-consonant-vowel words and then pronounce the word correctly.  
(**re** port...rather than rep ort)
5. The letters **i** and **y** usually say /i/ (**big**, **gym**), but may say **i** (**silent**, **my**, **type**).

6. The letter **y**, not **i**, is used at the end of an English word (my).

7. There are five kinds of **Silent final e's**. (In short words such as me, she, and he, the e says **e**, but in longer words where a single e appears at the end, the e is silent.) **Silent Final e's** should be thought of as "having a job."

Silent **e** #1: **bake gene time/type code cute**

(The job of the #1 Silent e is to make the vowel preceding it say its name.)

Silent **e** #2: **love give blue true**

(The job of the #2 Silent final e is to prevent us from ending an English word with a **v** or a **u**.)

Silent **e** #3: **chance bodice charge allege**

(The job of the #3 Silent final e is to soften a **c** or **g**.)

Silent **e** #4: **lit tle cas tle bot tle dab ble fid dle**

(The job of the #4 Silent final e is to prevent us from having a syllable with no vowel.)

Silent **e** # 5: **are nurse raise bye ewe owe cause**

Mrs. Spalding referred to the #5 Silent final e as the "No job e."

"Any reason for a silent E not covered by the first four is lumped into this final category.

1. The E keeps a word that is not plural from ending in an 's'  
Examples: dense (not dens), purse (not purs), false (not fals)

2. The E adds length to a short main-idea word. Ex.: awe, ewe, rye
3. The E gives a distinction in meaning between homonyms. Ex.: or/ore for/fore
4. The E is left over from Middle English or a foreign language where the final E was once pronounced. (treatise giraffe)"

8. There are five spellings for the sound /er/. Keep this sentence in mind:

**Her nurse first works early.**

In that, the spellings are in the descending order of usage in English. The phonogram **or** may say /er/ when it follows w (**work, worm, worthy**). Also keep in mind that **ar** and **or** say /er/ at the end of some words (**dollar, doctor**).

9. The 1-1-1 Rule: Words of **one syllable** (hop), having **one vowel** followed by **one consonant**, need another final consonant (hop + ped) before adding endings that begin with a vowel. This rule does not apply to words with x since x has two sounds /ks/.

10. The 2-1-1 Rule:

Words of **two syllables** (be gin) in which the second syllable (gin) is **accented** and has **one vowel** followed by **one consonant**, need another final consonant (be gin + ning) before adding an ending that begins with a vowel. If the last syllable is **not accented** (en ter, prof it, bud get) **do not double** the final consonant before adding the ending.

### 11. The Drop-e Rule:

Words ending with a Silent final **e** (come, hope) are written without the e when adding an ending that begins with a vowel.

12. After c we use **ei** (receive). If we say **a**, we use **ei** (vein).  
In the list of exceptions, we use **ei**.

Exceptions: Neither foreign sovereign seized counterfeit  
forfeited leisure.

Plus: either weird protein heifer

In all other words, the phonogram **ie** is used. (In school we were taught, "I before E, except after C, unless it says A as in neighbor and weigh.")

13. The phonogram **sh** is used at the beginning or end of a base word (**she**, **dish**), at the end of a syllable (fin **ish**), but never at the beginning of a syllable after the first one except for the ending **ship** (wor**ship**, friend **ship**).

14. The phonograms **ti**, **si**, and **ci** are the spellings most frequently used to say /sh/ at the beginning of a second or subsequent syllable in a base word (na **tion**, ses **sion**, fa **cial**).  
Most often, consider the root or root word to help you choose the correct /sh/ spelling to use.

Examples: infect to in fec **tious** / collect to col lec **tion** /  
potent to po ten **tial** / music to mu si **cian** / space to spa **acious** /  
finance to fi nan **cial** / soci (companion) to so **cial** /  
ancien (old) to an **cient** / cruc (cross) to cru **cial** /  
speci (kind) to spe **cial**

15. The phonogram **si** is used to say /sh/ when the syllable before it ends in an s (ses **sion**) or when the base word has an s where the base word changes (tense, ten **sion**). discuss to dis cus **sion** / compress to com pres **sion** / admis to ad mis **sion**

16. The phonogram **si** may also say /zh/ as in vi **sion**, di vi **sion**, oc ca **sion**, ex plo **sion**.

17. We often double l, f, and s following a single vowel at the end of a one-syllable word (will, off, miss ). Sometimes rule 17 applies to two-syllable words like recess.

18. We often use **ay** to say **a** at the end of a base word, never **a** alone. (**bay**, **day**, **decay**)

19. Vowels **i** and **o** may say **long i** and **long o** if followed by two consonants (find, old).

20. The letter **s** never follows **x**. The phonogram **x** includes an s sound -/ks/.

21. Dismiss L Rule:

All, written alone, has two l's, but when used as a prefix, only one l is written (al so, al most).

22. Dismiss L Rule (part 2):

Till and full, written alone, have two l's, but when used as a suffix, only one l is written (un til, beau ti ful).

23. The phonogram **dge** may be used **only** after a single vowel that says its short sound (badge, edge, bridge, lodge, budge).

24. Change Y to I Rule:

When adding an ending to a word that ends with a consonant and y, use i instead of y unless the ending is ing or might split a phonogram.

city/cities beauty/beautiful play/player funny/funniest  
multiply/multiply ing rely/reliable cry/cried deny/denied

25. The phonogram **ck** may be used **only** after a single vowel that says its short sound (back, neck, lick, rock, duck).

26. Words that are the names or titles of people, places, books, days, or months are capitalized.

27. Words beginning with the sound **z** are always spelled with **z**, never with **s**.

28. The phonogram **ed** has three sounds.

If a base word ends in the sound /d/ or /t/, adding **ed** makes another syllable that says /ed/ (sid ed, part ed).

If the base word ends in a voiced consonant sound, the ending **ed** says /d/ (lived).

If the base word ends in an unvoiced consonant sound, the ending **ed** says /t/ (jumped).

29. Words are usually divided between double consonants. For speaking and reading, only the consonant in the accented syllable is pronounced; the consonant in the unaccented syllable is silent (lit tle to lit le).