

## SPELLING RULES

EI/IE            i before e (as in chief) except after c (as in ceiling) and when sounding like a (as in neighbor and sleigh). The "shent" sound is spelled -ient (as in ancient).

### SUFFIXES

- A) If a word ends with -dge, and the suffix begins with a consonant, drop the e and add the suffix (judgment).
- B) If a word ends with -ce and -ge and the suffix begins with a vowel, leave the e (noticeable).
- C) One syllable words ending in a consonant-vowel-consonant pattern (plan) should have the last consonant doubled when the suffix begins with a vowel (-ing, as in planning).
- D) If a two-or-more syllable word ends with a vowel-consonant pattern, double the last consonant only if the last syllable is stressed (as in occur: occurring).
- E) If a word ends in a consonant-e pattern and the suffix begins with a consonant, leave the e (as in lovely).

### PLURAL ENDINGS

- A) Words ending in a sound that can be smoothly joined with s form their plurals by adding s (as in mistakes).
- B) If a word cannot join smoothly with s, add -es instead. Words that end in s, x, z, ch, and sh take -es (as in boxes).
- C) If a word ends in y preceded by a vowel, add s to form the plural (as in journeys).
- D) If a word ends in y preceded by a consonant, change the y to i and add -es (as in parties).
- E) For words ending in o, add -es (as in potatoes).

### HOMONYMS

Homonyms are words that sound similar, but differ in pronunciation and/or spelling (as in there/their; accept/except).

## POSSESSIVES

- A) The apostrophe (') plus s forms the possessive singular of all nouns and the possessive plural of all nouns not ending in s (as in man's role; men's role).
- B) Use the apostrophe alone to form the plural for nouns ending in s (as in dogs' fur; Jones' house).
- C) To form the possessive singular of indefinite pronouns, use the apostrophe plus s (as in everyone's success; one's leg).

## CONTRACTIONS

Contractions are two words condensed into one by replacing a letter or group of letters with an apostrophe (as in I am: I'm; they have: they've).

## DEMONS

This category includes all words that do not fit any rule of spelling (like caffeine or restaurant).