

Three Great Rules*

1. Double: Double the last consonant in a **CVC** closed syllable word when adding a vowel suffix.

top(p) + ed → **topped**

bat(t) + ing → **batting**

big(g) + er → **bigger**

- Do not double <x>, <y>, and <w> (as in *boxing* and *rowing*)

2. Drop: Drop a single Silent-e when adding a vowel suffix

tap~~e~~ + ed → taped

saddl~~e~~ + ing → saddling

instigat~~e~~ + or → instigator

3. Change: Change the <y> to an <i> when adding a suffix.

tryⁱ + ed → **tried**

replyⁱ + es → **replies**

fancyⁱ + er → **fancier**

- Leave <y> when adding suffix -ing (as in *crying*—because *English* does not use two *i*'s in a row)
- Leave <y> when part of vowel teams <ey>, <oy>, and <ay> (as in *buyer*, *praying*, or *joyous*).

* Advanced Rule (for older students)

Double: Double the last consonant in a 2-syllable word when adding a vowel suffix.

- **IF** the second syllable is a **CVC** closed syllable, and
- **IF** the second syllable is accented.

admit(t) + ed → admitt**ed**

prefer(r) + ing → prefer**ring**

occur(r) + ence → occur**rence**

- Do not double if the accent is on the first syllable (as in *visiting* and *creditor*).

NOTE: For more on how to use the Three Great Rules, take the Laying a Path: Phonics & Spelling and the Laying a Path: Word Study online classes.