

Learning together

1-1-1 Doubling Rule: Reading by Roots and Suffixes

ACTIVITY #4

SEQUENCE: SPELLING AND SENTENCE STRUCTURE
2ND CYCLE – PRIMARY

By Lise L'Heureux,
Special Education Teacher, Director,
Instructor, Consultant and Coach



Purpose of the activity

The aim of this activity is to spell words correctly when adding a suffix to a root word, knowing when to double the consonant before adding the suffix, or not.



Relevance of the activity

This activity will help you decide if you double the consonant before you add a suffix to a word. For example, when adding the suffix ER to words, sometimes you must double the consonant before the suffix (run – *runner*), and sometimes you don't (fast – *faster*, line – *liner*). This spelling rule will help you spell complex words more accurately.



Supplies

- List of most frequent suffixes (see appendix)
- Reference chart (see appendix)
- Optional: your child's vocabulary word list or words from a text or a book your child has read



LET'S GO!

What?



Today's activity is called the 1-1-1 doubling rule in spelling!

Why?



This activity will help you know when to double the consonant before the suffix, and when not to double it, helping you to spell words more accurately.

When?



The name of the rule tells you what the rule is about. "1 - 1 - 1" tells us there are 3 conditions to doubling the consonant before a suffix that starts with a vowel: the root word must have 1 syllable, 1 short vowel and 1 final consonant. It applies when you want to add a suffix that starts with a vowel to a root word.

How?



The 3 conditions to doubling the consonant before the suffix are as follows.

If the word has:

- 1 syllable
- 1 short vowel
- 1 final consonant



You must double the final consonant before adding the suffix. One step at a time, you check for the doubling conditions. Examples:

Run

- 1 syllable ✓
- 1 short vowel (u like up) ✓
- 1 final consonant (n) ✓

Jump

- 1 syllable ✓
- 1 short vowel (u like up) ✓
- 1 final consonant (n) ✓

Prune

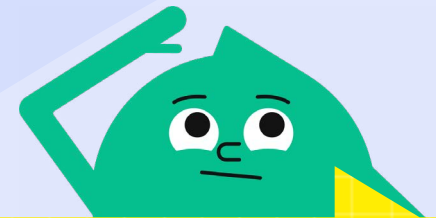
- 1 syllable ✓
- 1 short vowel (u like up) ✗
- 1 final consonant (n) ✗



This strategy will help you spell words that have suffixes that start with a vowel.

Notes

- When adding a suffix that starts with a Y or I to a *root word* that ends with an E, you take away the E before adding the suffix: paste – pasting, close – closing.
- You also double the consonant after a short vowel in many complex words without suffixes: *summer, inning, apply*.
- Start with simple root words with 3-letters CVC words (bag, set, kit, rob, run = double baggy, setting, kitten, robber, running).
- Next, use 4-letters CCVC root words (single final C: *spot, drum, flip* = double *spotty, drummer, flipping*) and CVCC (2 final C: *cast, rent, girl* = don't double *casting, rented, girly*).
- Finally use more advanced roots, with 5 letters or more (spend, crisp, strap = 2 final C or 1 final C *spending, crispy, strapped*).



Don't forget!

This activity helps your child learn a rule they can then apply to hundreds of words, instead of learning them all by heart. Don't hesitate to remind them to look for the root word first, then ask themselves whether the doubling rule applies.



List of most frequent suffixes

SUFFIXE	MEANING	EXAMPLES
-able, -ible	can be	washable, visible
-al, -ial	characteristic of...	global, official
-ed	past tense of verbs	waited, jumped, sailed
-en	made of, to cause	frighten, silken
-er, -est	comparatives	longer, longest
-ful	full of	handful, helpful
-ic	adj.: characteristic of...	basic, historic
-ing	verb form	waiting, jumping, sailing
-ion, -tion, ation, -ition	noun: act, process, result of	union, action, education, competition
-less	without	penniless, thoughtless
-y, -ly	characteristic of	lucky, actually, eagerly
-ment	action, process or result	document, treatment, payment
-ness	state of, condition of...	happiness, sadness
-ous, -eous, -ious	quality of...	indigenous, outrageous, delicious
-s, -es	plural or 3 rd person singular verbs	friends, boxes, crushes

Reference chart

Root	DOUBLE (suffix starts with a vowel)					DON'T DOUBLE	
	-es	-y	-er	-ing	-ed	Root = X	suffix = X
bat			<i>batter</i>	<i>batting</i>	<i>batted</i>		<i>bats</i>
fog		<i>foggy</i>	<i>fogger</i>	<i>fogging</i>	<i>fogged</i>		<i>fog, fogless</i>
clip			<i>clipper</i>	<i>clipping</i>	<i>clipped</i>		<i>clips</i>
drum			<i>drummer</i>	<i>drumming</i>	<i>drummed</i>		<i>drums</i>
watch						<i>watcher, watching, watched, watches</i> (don't double more than one consonant)	<i>watchful</i>
slam			<i>slammer</i>	<i>slamming</i>	<i>slammed</i>		<i>slams</i>
bang						<i>banger, banging, banged</i> (Final NG)	<i>bangs</i>
class						<i>classy, classed, classes</i> (Final SS already)	
limp						<i>limping, limped</i> (Final MP)	<i>limps</i>
paste						<i>pasty, pasting, pasted</i> (final ST)	<i>pastes</i> (singular already has final E)