

Long and *-before-*

CK-12 English

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Long <e> and the <i>-before-<e> Rule

Introduces the basic rule of <i>-before-<e> except after <c>

Long <e> and <i>-before-<e>



The <i>-before-<e> rule is the best known bit of spelling wisdom around.

It states:

<i> before <e>, except after <c>, or when spelling [ā] as in *neighbor* and *weigh*.

Note that the <ie> spelling of [ē] is quite common where certain stems and suffixes come together. If a stem that ends in a consonant plus <y> has a suffix added to it that starts with <e>, when the <y> changes to <i>, the resulting <ie> often spells [ē].

Examples

1. When spelling long <e>, which is usually the case, <ie> or <ei>? <ie>
2. Which is usually the case, <cie> or <cei>? <cei>
3. Add the suffix to create an <ie> that spells [ē].
gallery + es = *galler* ~~y~~ + i + es = *galleries*

Review

1. If you're spelling long <e> right after the letter <c>, is it <ei> or <ie>? _____
2. Any words that fit either of those two cases are instances of the rule, while words that do not fit into one of the three cases are holdouts. Among the following thirty words you should find twenty-two instances and eight holdouts. Underline the <ie> and <ei> spellings of [ē]:

<i>grief</i>	<i>yielding</i>	<i>either</i>	<i>priest</i>	<i>deceiving</i>
<i>relief</i>	<i>ceiling</i>	<i>conceive</i>	<i>prairie</i>	<i>movies</i>
<i>receive</i>	<i>weird</i>	<i>believe</i>	<i>receipt</i>	<i>collie</i>
<i>seize</i>	<i>shriek</i>	<i>field</i>	<i>deceit</i>	<i>receiver</i>
<i>hygiene</i>	<i>thief</i>	<i>protein</i>	<i>financier</i>	<i>weir</i>
<i>niece</i>	<i>calorie</i>	<i>leisure</i>	<i>perceives</i>	<i>conceit</i>

3. Sort the above words into the following groups. Be ready to discuss your reasons for putting each word into each group.

Instances of the Rule			Holdouts to the Rule
Words with [ē] spelled <ei> after <c>	Words with [ē] spelled <ie> elsewhere		

[Figure1]

4. Combine the following stems and suffixes. In the words that you form, mark the letters that spell [ē].

Stem + Suffix	= Analysis	= Word
gallery + es	= <i>galler</i> y + i + es	= <i>galler<u>ies</u></i>
hurry + ed	=	=
marry + ed	=	=
study + er	=	=
vary + er	=	=
allergy + es	=	=
fallacy + es	=	=

Review (Answers)

1. If you're spelling long <e> right after the letter <c>, is it <ei> or <ie>? <ei>

2. Any words that fit either of those two cases are instances of the rule. Any words that do not fit into one of the three cases are holdouts. Among the following thirty words you should find twenty-two instances and eight holdouts. Underline the <ie> and <ei> spellings of [ē]:

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<i>relief</i>	<i>ceiling</i>	<i>conceive</i>	<i>prairie</i>	<i>movies</i>
<i>receive</i>	<i>weird</i>	<i>believe</i>	<i>receipt</i>	<i>collie</i>
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<i>niece</i>	<i>calorie</i>	<i>leisure</i>	<i>perceives</i>	<i>conceit</i>

3. Sort the above words into the following groups. Be ready to discuss your reasons for putting each word into each group.

Instances of the Rule		Holdouts to the Rule	
Words with [ē] spelled <ei> after <c>	Words with [ē] spelled <ie> elsewhere		
receive	grief	calorie	seize
ceiling	relief	believe	weird
conceive	hygiene	field	either
receipt	niece	priest	protein
deceit	yielding	prairie	leisure
perceives	shriek	movies	financier
deceiving	thief	collie	weir
receiver			
conceit			

4. Combine the following stems and suffixes. In the words that you form, mark the letters that spell [ē].

Stem + Suffix	= Analysis	= Word
gallery + es	= galler y + i + es	= galler <u>ies</u>
hurry + ed	= hurr y + i + ed	= hurri <u>ed</u>
marry + ed	= marr y + i + ed	= marri <u>ed</u>
study + er	= stud y + i + er	= studi <u>er</u>
vary + es	= var y + i + es	= vari <u>es</u>
allergy + es	= allerg y + i + es	= allergi <u>es</u>
fallacy + es	= fallac y + i + es	= fallaci <u>es</u>

1.0 REFERENCES

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