

Spelling [f]

CK-12 English

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CK-12 English



Spelling [f]

spelled <f> as in "golf" and <ff> as in "waffle"

[f]

Spelling [f]



[Figure1]

Most of the time [f] is spelled <f> or <ff>.

It is usually easy to know when to use <f> versus <ff>. The <ff> is always there for good reasons. Most often it is due to [assimilation](#) or the VCC pattern, or it is between a short vowel and <le>. Less often it is due to [twinning](#) or simple addition.

Examples

You can hear the sound [f] at the beginning and end of the word *fluff*.

With <ff> the VCC pattern rather than the VC# is usual at the end of words, as in *stiff* and *staff* rather than **stif* or **staf*. The only words that end with a single <f> following a short vowel and making the [f] sound are the French *chef* and *clef* and the English word *if*. So the only cases of [f] spelled <ff> due to [twinning](#) are in *iffy*, *iffier*, and *iffiest*.

Review

1. Underline the letters that spell [f] in the following words.

fluorescent	fastener	heifer	foreign
efficient	indifferent	certify	friendly
fascinate	notify	golf	shelf
buffalo	counterfeit	coffee	definite
feisty	profanity	waffles	iffy
scientific	defrauded	fezzes	financier

2. Sort the words into the following two groups.

Words with [f] spelled <f>:

[Figure2]

Words with [f] spelled <ff>:

[Figure3]

About 90% of the time [f] is spelled one of these two ways.

In the following words, if the <ff> spelling is due to [assimilation](#), twinning, or simple addition, analyze the word into prefix, base, and suffix to show where the <ff> spelling comes from. If the <ff> is due to the VCC pattern or is between a short vowel and <le>, just write 'VCC' or '<ffle>' in the Analysis column. Remember that VCC rather than VC# is normal for [f] at the end of the word.

Word	Analysis
3. affection	
4. iffy	
5. offering	
6. sheriff	
7. effective	
8. shelfful	
9. gruff	
10. buffalo	
11. indifferent	
12. efficient	
13. waffles	
14. daffodil	
15. suffered	
16. iffiest	
17. coffee	

Review (Answers)

1.

<u>f</u> luorescent	<u>f</u> astener	hei <u>f</u> er	<u>f</u> oreign
e <u>f</u> ficient	in <u>d</u> i <u>f</u> ferent	certi <u>f</u> y	<u>f</u> riendly
<u>f</u> ascinate	noti <u>f</u> y	gol <u>f</u>	shel <u>f</u>
bu <u>f</u> falo	counte <u>r</u> fe <u>i</u> t	co <u>f</u> fee	de <u>f</u> inite
<u>f</u> eisty	pro <u>f</u> anity	wa <u>f</u> fles	i <u>f</u> fy
sci <u>e</u> nti <u>f</u> ic	de <u>f</u> rauded	<u>f</u> ezzes	<u>f</u> inancier

2.

Words with [f] spelled <f>:

fluorescent	notify	certify	shelf
fascinate	counterfeit	golf	definite
feisty	profanity	fezzes	financier
scientific	defrauded	foreign	
fastener	heifer	friendly	

Words with [f] spelled

<ff>:

efficient	indifferent	waffles
buffalo	coffee	iffy

Word	Analysis
3. affection	a <u>d</u> + f + fect + ion
4. iffy	if + f + y
5. offering	o <u>b</u> + f + fer + ing
6. sheriff	VCC
7. effective	e <u>x</u> + f + fect + ive
8. shelfful	shelf + ful
9. gruff	VCC
10. buffalo	VCC
11. indifferent	in + di <u>s</u> + f + fer + ent
12. efficient	e <u>x</u> + f + fic + i + ent
13. waffles	<ffle>
14. daffodil	VCC
15. suffered	su <u>b</u> + f + fer + ed
16. iffiest	if + f + <u>y</u> + i + est
17. coffee	VCC

1.0 REFERENCES

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