

The Twinning or Doubling Rule

CK-12 English

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Overview of the Twinning or Doubling Rule

Doubling the final consonant of a free base when it ends in CVC# and the suffix starts with a vowel

The Twinning or Doubling Rule



Except for the letter <x>, you twin the final consonant of a free base that ends in [the pattern CVC#](#) when you add a suffix that starts with a vowel.

Examples

Listed below are eight free bases in which there is **twinning** (also called **doubling**) when a suffix that starts with a vowel is added. The last three letters in each of them have been marked with a <v> for a vowel letter and a <c> for a consonant. The end of the word is marked with a hashtag.

spot	fat	red	not
cvc#	cvc#	cvc#	cvc#
thin	run	fur	sad
cvc#	cvc#	cvc#	cvc#

Here are the free bases in which there is no [twinning](#) when a suffix is added.

loud	great	last	land
vvc#	vvc#	vcc#	vcc#
brown	turn	drift	air
vvc#	vcc#	vcc#	vvc#

Notice that free bases in which there is [twinning](#) end in [the pattern CVC#](#), but free bases in which there is no twinning do not.

Review

Add the suffixes to the free bases, and show how they go together in the “process” column. Sometimes there will be twinning, and sometimes there will not. Remember your Twinning Rule!

Free Base	+ Suffix	= Process	= Word
1. twin	+ ing	= <i>twin + n + ing</i>	= <i>twinning</i>
2. hot	+ er	=	=
3. fat	+ er	=	=
4. flat	+ ness	=	=
5. own	+ er	=	=
6. ask	+ ing	=	=
7. sun	+ s	=	=
8. hot	+ iy	=	=
9. nod	+ ed	=	=
10. loud	+ er	=	=
11. great	+ ness	=	=
12. fur	+ y	=	=

13. Look at the following words:

box	boxer
fix	fixed
fox	foxes
six	sixes
tax	taxing
wax	waxy

Do the words in the left column seem to fit the pattern for twinning? _____

14. Do the suffixes in the words in the right column start with vowels? _____

15. Is there twinning in the words in the right column? _____

The reason that we do not twin the letter <x> in these (or any) words is that <x> spells two sounds: [ks]. When we say that a word must end CVC for twinning to take place, we are saying that the word must end with a single consonant letter that spells a single consonant sound. So since <x> spells two sounds, we never twin the letter ‘x.’

Review (Answers)

Free Base	+ Suffix	= Process	= Word
1. twin	+ ing	= <i>twin + n + ing</i>	= <i>twinning</i>
2. hot	+ er	= <i>hot + t + er</i>	= <i>hotter</i>
3. fat	+ er	= <i>fat + t + er</i>	= <i>fatter</i>
4. flat	+ ness	= <i>flat + ness</i>	= <i>flatness</i>
5. own	+ er	= <i>own + er</i>	= <i>owner</i>
6. ask	+ ing	= <i>ask + ing</i>	= <i>asking</i>
7. sun	+ s	= <i>sun + s</i>	= <i>suns</i>
8. hot	+ ly	= <i>hot + ly</i>	= <i>hotly</i>
9. nod	+ ed	= <i>nod + d + ed</i>	= <i>nodded</i>
10. loud	+ er	= <i>loud + er</i>	= <i>louder</i>
11. great	+ ness	= <i>great + ness</i>	= <i>greatness</i>
12. fur	+ y	= <i>fur + r + y</i>	= <i>furry</i>

13. Do the words in the left column seem to fit the pattern for twinning? Yes.

14. Do the suffixes in the words in the right column start with vowels? Yes.

15. Is there twinning in the words in the right column? No.

1.0 REFERENCES

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