

The *-Before- Rule with Long and Long*

CK-12 English

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The <i>-before-<e> Rule and Spelling Long <a> and Long <i>

Long <a> spelled <ei> and cases of long <i> spelled <ie> at the beginning or middle of words

The <i>-Before-<e> Rule with Long <a> and Long <i>



[Figure1]

The I-Before-E Rule:

It's <i> before <e>, except after <c>

Or when spelling [ā], as in *neighbor* or *weigh*.

Examples

When you are spelling long <e> the first line of the I-Before-E jingle is a good guide. The second line of the jingle is a good guide when you are spelling long <a>. Long <a> is never spelled <ie>. So far as the choice between <ie> and <ei> is concerned, when spelling [ā] always choose <ei>, like in the words *neighbor* and *weigh*.

Review

1. Underline the letters that are spelling long <a> in the following words. Do not underline <gh> as part of the spelling of long <a>:

neighbor	eight	veil	reindeer
vein	heir	freight	surveillance
reign	weigh	their	sleigh

2. Sort the words into these two groups:

Words in which the <ei> . . .

comes before <gh>		does not come before <gh>	

[Figure2]

3. We can make the I-Before-E Rule even more useful if we add something about spelling long <i> to it. Underline the letters that spell long <i> in the following words. Again, don't underline any silent <gh> after long <i>:

eiderdown	height	feisty	poltergeist
kaleidoscope	untie	seismic	either
magpie	neither	sleight	underlie

4. Sort the words into these two groups:

Words in which the [i] is . . .

at the beginning of the word	in the middle of the word		at the end of the word

[Figure3]

5. Among these words, is [i] at the end of the word spelled <ei> or <ie>? _____

At the beginning or in the middle of words [i] is spelled _____.

6. The <ie> spelling of long <e> often occurs when a stem that ends in <y> has a suffix added to it that starts with <e>: *gallery* + *es* = *galler* ~~y~~ + *i* + *es* = *galleries*. The <ie> spelling of long <i> sometimes occurs in the same way: *sky* + *es* = *sk* ~~y~~ + *i* + *es* = *skies*, with [i] spelled <ie>. Combine the following stems and suffixes and underline the letters that spell [i]:

Free Stem + Suffix	= Analysis	= Word
sky + es	= sk y + i + es	= sk <u>i</u> es
ally + es	=	=
dignify + ed	=	=
satisfy + ed	=	=
modify + es	=	=
terrify + ed	=	=
multiply + ed	=	=
testify + es	=	=
qualify + ed	=	=
dry + es	=	=

Notice that this <ie> spelling of long <i> also comes at the end of the free stem, just as it does in words like *untie* and *magpie*. So now our I-Before-E Rule can tell us the following things:

- When we're spelling long <e>, it's <i> before <e> except after <c>.
- When we're spelling long <a> it's <e> before <i>.
- When we're spelling long <i>, it's <i> before <e> at the end of free stems, but it's <e> before <i> everywhere else.

Review (Answers)

- Underline the letters that are spelling long <a> in the following words. Do not underline <gh> as part of the spelling of long <a>:

nighbor eight veil reindeer
vein heir freight surveillance
reign weight their sleigh

- Sort the words into these two groups:

Words in which the <ei> . . .

comes before <gh>		does not come before <gh>	
neighbor	sleigh	vein	veil
eight		reign	their
weigh		heir	reindeer
freight			surveillance

3. We can make the I-Before-E Rule even more useful if we add something about spelling long <i> to it. Underline the letters that spell long <i> in the following words. Again, don't underline any silent <gh> after long <i>:

eiderdown height feisty poltergeist
 kaleidoscope untie seismic either
 magpie neither sleight underlie

4. Sort the words into these two groups:

Words in which the [i] is...

at the beginning of the word	in the middle of the word	at the end of the word	
eiderdown	kaleidoscope	seismic	magpie
either	height	sleight	untie
	neither	poltergeist	underlie
	feisty		

5. Among these words, is [i] at the end of the word spelled <ei> or <ie>? <ie>

At the beginning or in the middle of words [i] is spelled <ei>.

6. Combine the following stems and suffixes and underline the letters that spell [i]:

Free Stem + Suffix	= Analysis	= Word
sky + es	= sk y + i + es	= sk <u>i</u> es
ally + es	= all y + i + es	= all <u>i</u> es
dignify + ed	= dignif y + i + ed	= dignif <u>i</u> ed
satisfy + ed	= satisf y + i + ed	= satisf <u>i</u> ed
modify + es	= modif y + i + es	= modif <u>i</u> es
terrify + ed	= terrif y + i + ed	= terrif <u>i</u> ed
multiply + ed	= multipl y + i + ed	= multipl <u>i</u> ed
testify + es	= testif y + i + es	= testif <u>i</u> es
qualify + ed	= qualif y + i + ed	= qualif <u>i</u> ed
dry + es	= dr y + i + es	= dr <u>i</u> es

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