

Written by
Mike Jones

Illustrated by
Leah Heming

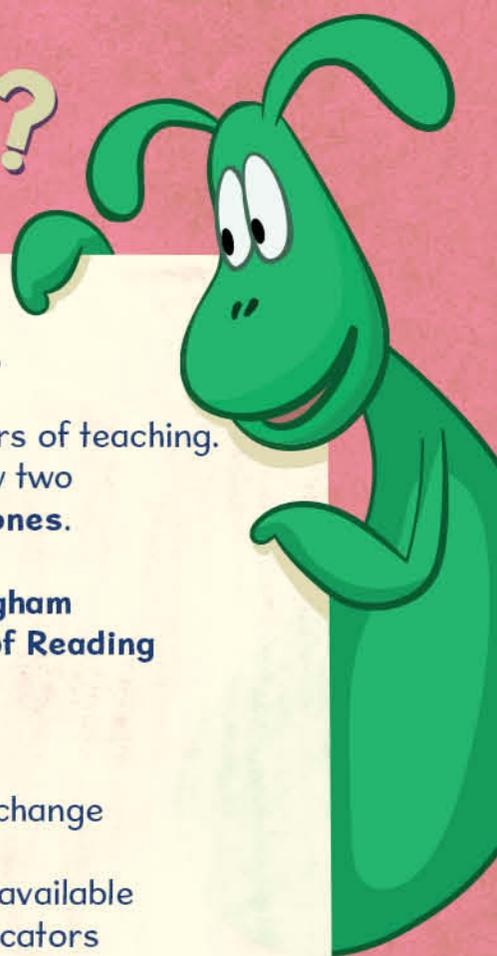


IMPOOV
YOR
SMELLING

THE RULES OF READING & SPELLING



WHO IS NESSY?



Nessy Learning was founded in 1999 by mother and son, **Pat and Mike Jones** at the **Bristol Dyslexia Centre**.

Nessy uses strategies and games developed over 20 years of teaching. An award winning, ed-tech company, Nessy is now run by two dyslexic people: **Tiffany James** and her husband **Mike Jones**.

Nessy resources follow the evidence based **Orton-Gillingham methodology of Structured Literacy**. This is a **Science of Reading** process that helps children become competent readers using science.

Nessy has a team of dedicated people with a passion to change the educational outcomes for children with dyslexia. The goal of the company is to make effective instruction available to all children at an affordable, low cost. Nessy helps educators to identify and support children with dyslexia.

THE AUTHOR'S STORY

Mike Jones is a parent, entrepreneur, and has dyslexia. At 8 years old, Mike could not read or spell his own name. His mother **Pat Jones**, homeschooled him, and created a series of techniques that taught him to read, write and spell. Pat's intervention transformed Mike's ability to learn, and he soon went from bottom of the class straight to the top. Their story has now been made into the film '**Mical**'.

When Mike left school he went on to study law, while Pat set up a school to help children with dyslexia. In his free time, Mike helped out by answering the phone at her school. He recalls how conversations all started the same way, with parents desperate for help. He remembered his own struggle and realized he felt a deep passion to help others with dyslexia. After qualifying as a dyslexia specialist, Mike launched **Nessy** in 1999. **Nessy** is an online program that included all the techniques that had helped him. To date, more than 100,000 schools and millions of children worldwide have learned to read and write using his programs.

THE ILLUSTRATOR'S STORY

Leah Heming is an illustrator, art director, art gallery curator and nature guide. She has collaborated with **Nessy Learning** on books, illustrations and animations since 2014.

Leah has illustrated a dozen children's picture books that have been published around the world. She has also art-directed part of popular children's TV series '**Driver Dan's Story Train**' and worked as a concept designer on the series '**Numtums**'.

In her spare time, Leah studies permaculture, ecology and runs an art gallery and artist residency. She combines her love of nature and illustration by creating fun and interactive nature-guided walks for all ages, with the hope of inspiring new generations to protect the planet.

TESTIMONIALS

Nessy is absolutely brilliant. I have been in tears over my son who is ADHD and dyslexic and struggled to learn to read. At last a program that not only works but he loves and will play as much as he's allowed. Flying along with his reading now.

Ambridge



As a parent we love Nessy because we can see what she is working on Nessy notifies us if something doesn't seem right.

Rebecca Desmarais

6



Love the videos!!! The phonics videos are very short and to the point with a focus sound and visuals to help the children remember.

Leah Marie



I highly recommend Nessy for reading and spelling. They are very systematic in their approach. The worksheets and games that go along with the subscription are fantastic.

Christy Flamenbaum



My son could barely read a word a year ago. Now he's reading David Walliams and Roald Dahl with the help of Nessy.

Rachel Drummond

After a year of struggling with my son's reading, and trying 3 other reading/dyslexia intervention programs, this (Nessy) is the first one to actually help him improve! I really can't believe how well he is doing after only a month. Things have finally clicked. He is reading for fun now, which two months ago I never would have thought he'd do. He can't wait to do Nessy every day and he's always willing to work longer than our 30 minutes we set aside for it. Thanks for such a great program.

Jenna Miller DeMasellis



The printable worksheets are perfect for differentiation. Makes life so much easier for teachers and lovely activities to support personal target areas for the kids.

Hannah Halliday



My son absolutely loved Nessy. We used it every day until he was 11. It's a really great interactive learning platform. Helped him lots. Helped me support him as I watched how he learnt.

D Hazzard



7



Yes, it is brilliant! The children really learn from all the animated videos and the games really embed the learning in a multisensory way. I found many children start to enjoy reading and spelling using these activities when they haven't wanted to be engaged, as they gain lots of confidence and retain the rules.

Penny Robinson

I use it (Nessy) in school. The children have gained so much confidence and they love it!! I also run two Nessy clubs after school for them. The resources are just brilliant.

Kelly George

INTRODUCTION

Words in English sometimes have odd sounds. **Love** sounds as if it should be spelled **luv**. **They** has no **a**. These words don't seem to follow any logic, but both words can be explained by rules.

Almost everyone will have heard of at least one spelling rule - i before e except after c. Ironically, this is probably the least useful rule, because it has so many exceptions. But there are many more useful rules that everyone should know. The Cambridge Dictionary states that 75% of English words follow basic rules. When I first learned that rules could be applied to reading and spelling, I was amazed. This confusing language did make sense after all.

~~luv~~ → Love ~~tha~~ → they

There are many thousands of words in English. Trying to learn them all using memorization is too difficult, but learning rules gives us the ability to work out how to spell almost any word.

Academic research into the most effective way to teach reading and spelling has repeatedly found that the best approach is understanding the structure and rules of English. Unfortunately, teacher training usually does not cover the rules. Many teachers are now realizing there is more to learn.

Rules are especially useful when the reader is confronted with an unfamiliar or difficult word. They are a way to apply logic to what may, at first, seem an illogical letter sequence. Learning rules helps the brain make letter-sound connections. Once the connections have formed a permanent memory, the rule is no longer needed - a process called Orthographic Mapping.

For children, a rule benefits from being associated with a tangible picture that can be imagined.

To make the rules more memorable, they have been given a special Nesy strategy.

CHAPTERS

- 1** The Basics
- 2** Spelling Rules
- 3** Advanced Rules
- 4** Index

CHAPTER 1

The Basics



Skip this chapter
if you already know the basics.

ALPHABET

aA bB cC dD eE
fF gG hH iI jJ kK
lL mM nN oO pP
qQ rR sS tT uU
vV wW xX yY zZ

Each letter has a sound

b

bat



and a name

Bee



eee

Vowels have a...

breve

short sound **ă**

apple



and a long name **ā**

apron



The sound is called a **phoneme**

The letter symbol is called a **GRAPHEME**

Matching sounds to letters is called **PHONICS**

After learning a group,
blend the sounds into CVC words.

Learn letter **sounds** first.
Group 4-5 together.
This is a good sequence:

satp

inmd

herck

golf

bujq

vwxyz

sat pat tap

pin map dim

hen red can

dog log fog

bus jug quick

van win box

yes zap

CVC = Consonant Vowel Consonant



**SOUNDING
OUT**

and

Blending

are

CRITICAL

to the **process**

of *learning to read*

DECODING

is using **PHONIC** Knowledge

to *read* an unfamiliar word

by *Blending* **sounds**

Once the process of decoding
has been mastered,

SPEED is the key
to reading fluency.

HOW TO READ

say

each  sound
and

Blend

them
together

GO

Left → to → right

all through
the word

c-a-t

cat

HOW TO SPELL

say
the
whole
word

BREAK it into
separate **CHUNKS**

This is
called

SEGMENTING

← cat →

c-a-t

ALPHABETIC PRINCIPLE

means knowing all the phonic sounds
and how they connect together.

There are

44

different

sounds



sh ch ck th wh ff ll all ss zz
ee ea* ai ay oe oa ow* igh ie* oo
ar or er ir ur a-e i-e o-e u-e
ui ue ew oi oy ou ph au aw
ey* ei* eu wor war wa
are ire ure ear* air ough* augh*

* Makes more than one sound.

These letters are called the

VOWELS

a e i o u *

* **y** sometimes
makes a
VOWEL sound

To remember



an **e**lephant
in **o**live
underpants



All the other letters are called

CONSONANTS

To remember
draw letter ANTS



ANTS



INITIAL CONSONANTS

Once **CVC** words have been mastered, move on to **CCVC**.

Both consonants make distinct
sounds that are blended together.

br brag
cr crab
dr drop

fr from
gr grid
pr prod
tr trap

bl blog
cl clap
fl flag

gl glad
pl plan
sl slam

sm smog
sn snap
sp spot
st stop
sw swim

END CONSONANTS

Words that end with 2 consonants **CVCC**.

Words where the vowel makes
an unexpected sound,
are sometimes called **units**
or **glued sounds**.

ing wing
ong long
ang fang
ink sink
ank bank
unk bunk
old cold

When spelling,
there may be **difficulty**
discriminating the second
to last consonant.

end send
and sand
ent sent
ump jump
ond pond
amp camp

CONSONANT DIGRAPH

2 letters that spell 1 sound.

Digraphs that spell consonant sounds.

Common spelling difficulties.

- sh** ship → similar sounds
ch chip → similar sounds
ck kick → ck/k
th moth → th/f/v
wh wheel → wh/w
ph phone → ph/f
qu quick → q/qw/kw/cw

A consonant digraph is represented as **CC**
shelf = CCVC

VOWEL DIGRAPH

Digraphs that spell vowel sounds.

- ai** train **ay** play
ee keep **ea** → 2 sounds → **ea**t **br**ea**d**
ie → 2 sounds → **pie** **thief**
ei → 2 sounds → **vein** **recei**ve
oe **toe** **oa** **boat** **ow** → 2 sounds → **sn**ow **cow**
oo → 2 sounds → **bo**ot **w**oo**d**
ui **fruit** **ue** **blue** **ew** **new**
ou → 3 sounds → **m**ou**se** **sou**p **cou**sin
oi **coin** **oy** **boy**
ey → 2 sounds → **honey** **obey**
au **sauce** **aw** **saw**

A vowel digraph is represented as **VV**

tree = CCVV

make 1 sound

2 LETTERS

TRIGRAPH

3 letters that make 1 sound.

igh light

ear clear

are care

tch match

air fair

ure cure

dge bridge

ore score

ire fire

make
1 sound

Some words start with 3 consonants but unlike a trigraph, each makes a distinct sound.

str string **spr** spring **shr** shrink

thr three **spl** splash **scr** scratch

3 LETTERS



QUADGRAPHS

4 letters make 1 sound.

ough thought

/ō/



augh caught

/or/



eigh eight

/ā/

make
1 sound

4 LETTERS



SYLLABLE

Every word must have a vowel.



The vowel makes the beat in a word.

The **beat** is called a

syllable

Building a longer word by syllable makes it easier to **read** and **spell**.



To remember

draw a **Silly Bull** beating his hoof on the ground!

TYPES OF SYLLABLE

CLOSED SYLLABLE

The **vowel** makes a **short** sound.

wĕt

A **consonant** has **closed** in the **vowel** making it **short of breath**.

OPEN SYLLABLE

The **vowel** has a **long** name.

wē

There is no consonant to close the vowel. It is **open** to **fresh air** and **SHOUTS** its name.

To split a word into syllables, underline the vowels, then divide in the middle.

VCE SYLLABLE

Vowel Consonant e Syllable

es-cape

Even though the **vowel** is **closed** in, the **e** causes the **vowel** to have a **long** name.

The **e** makes no sound.

Closed syllable. A **consonant** has **closed** in the **vowel**.

VOWEL TEAM (vowel digraph)

A pair of **vowels** go together to make **1** sound.

rail-road

This is a **compound word** **2** separate words join to make a new word. E.g. hotdog, cowboy, football

r CONTROLLED SYLLABLE

car-pet

The **r** controls the **vowel** and together they make **1** sound.

closed syllable

cle SYLLABLE

Consonant followed by **-le**. **-le** makes the sound /ul/.

split

noo-dle
1 2 3

Count back **3** and **split**.

DIPHTHONG SYLLABLE

The **sound** is not like either letter. It makes a new and different **sound**.



To remember the sound of **-le**
draw
lifting elephants

To remember

PREFIX / SUFFIX

draw

head and tail



report transport export

The same body can have a different head/prefix that changes the meaning.



PREFIX

(the head of the word)

in- un- dis- mis- ab- ad- ex-
sub- trans- inter- per-
bi- re- de- pre-

These are
the most **common**
but there are **more**.

Understanding
the **meaning**
of a **PREFIX**
helps to develop
vocabulary.



under

sea

Adding a **SUFFIX** can change the **spelling** of the root word.

Words can have more than one **PREFIX** and **SUFFIX**.

**SUFFIXING
RULES**



SUFFIX

(the tail of a word)

-ing -ed -s -es -y -er
-ful -ly -ish -ous -age
-ance -ence -ant -ent -ic
-le -al -el -able -ible -en -et
-ism -ive -ist

CHAPTER 2

spelling rules





FLOSS

Words ending in **ff ll ss**

FLOSS

ff or f

puff **beef**

Use **ff** after a **short vowel** sound.

Use **f** as **vowel** has a **long** name.

ll or l

well **cool**

Use **ll** after a **short vowel** sound.

Use **l** as this is **not** a **short vowel** sound.

FLOSS

ss or s

boss **peas**

Use **ss** after a **short vowel** sound.

Use **s** as **vowel** has a **long** name.

zz

buzz **fizz**

same rule

Protect a **short vowel** with a **double** letter.



EXCEPTIONS

bus us if gas yes

Gas on the bus!

MAGIC

Also called **split vowel** digraph
vowel consonant e or **silent e**



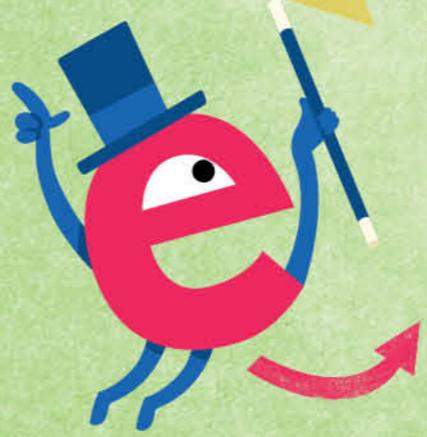
The **vowel** goes from a **short** sound to a **long** name.

/A/

make

 has no **power** left to make a **sound**. It is **silent**.

 gives **MAGIC power** to the **vowel**.



sends **power** to the **vowel**



Read the words and **listen** to the different vowel sounds.

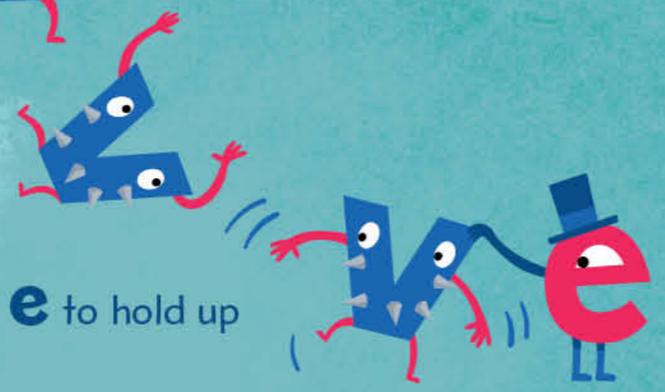
hat	hate
pin	pine
cub	cube
hop	hope

power gone
silent

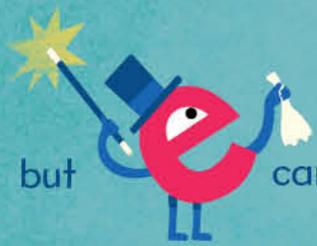


THE **V** RULE

Don't end a word with **v**.
It's so pointy, it will fall over!



Give it an **e** to hold up



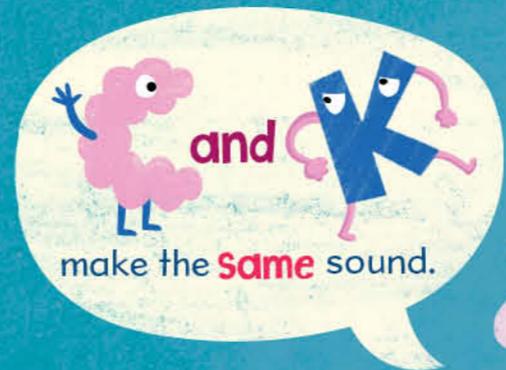
but **e** can't use its **MAGIC power** on the **vowel**.

Don't have **vv** together. It looks too much like **w**

giv → **give**

covver → **cover**

CUDDLY **K**ICKING



c and **k**
make the **same** sound.

Use **c** at the beginning. Use **k** at the end.

To remember
k is a **mean**,
Kicking letter.
It comes **Last**.
pinK **beaK**

To remember
c is a **lovely**,
cuddly letter.
It comes **first**.
at **old**

But when **c** is followed by **i** or **e**
it makes a **soft** sound /s/,
you have to use **k**
King **Key**

SOFT

i, y, e, makes a softy of 

When it is **soft**, makes the sound /s/. 



SOFT

i, y, e, makes a softy of 

When it is **soft**, makes the sound /j/. 



To remember 

🎵 sing a song 🎵

i, y, e, makes a softy of 

i, y, e, makes a softy of 

Listen to the **song** on the **Nessy** YouTube channel.

VOWEL

 controls the **vowel**.
 The **two** letters make **one** new sound.



-  **er** herb
-  **ir** bird
-  **ur** surf

  
 All **3** make the **same** sound.

To remember 
Roar like a **Lion**
 to make the sound.
 Draw a **Lion mane**
 around the **two** letters.

-  **ar** card
-  **or** corn

difficult to spell



rule 7

VOWEL



2 r's cancel each other out.
SHHH



carry
borrow

berry
mirror
hurry

rule 8

VOWEL



VOWEL + 
+ MAGIC 
changes the sound again.

are ★ care
ore ★ score
ere ★ sincere
ire ★ fire
ure ★ cure

THE 3 PROTECTORS



The **vowel** has a letter friend.

bank Use **K**

This **short vowel** has no letter friend.

back Use the protector **ck**

Listen to the **vowel** when it has a **Long** name.

bake Use **ke**

ch or **tch**

Make the same sound.



I must protect the **short vowel**!

When the **vowel** has a letter friend.

bunch

Use **ch**

This **short vowel** has no letter friend.

catch

Use the protector **tch**

The **vowel** has a letter friend or a **Long** name.

fringe

Use **ge**

cage

Use **ge**

This **short vowel** has no letter friend.

bridge

Use the protector **dge**

ge or **dge**

Make the same sound.

To remember draw a **shield** around the protectors.



PLURALS (part 1)

means
MORE than
ONE!



Add -s to the **end** of a word to make it **plural**.

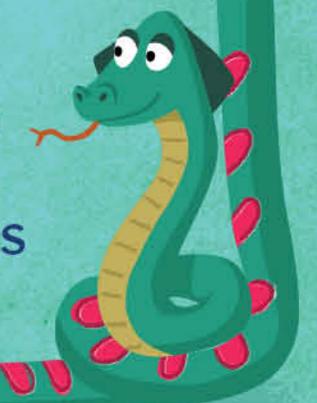
steps



Add -es , where a word ends with one of these **hissing** sounds.

x ss ch sh zz

box**es** glass**es** patch**es** dish**es** quizz**es**



How do you know which to use?

DIGRAPHS with the same sound

At the beginning or in the middle.

At the end.

Before a tail (suffix).

ai	aim	paint	ay	play	playing
oi	oil	coin	oy	boy	boys*
igh	light		y	cry	crying
oa	oat	road	ow	snow	snowed
oo	moon		ew	chew	chewy*

*EXCEPTIONS
oyster - royal - loyal

*EXCEPTIONS
steward



a, o, i are letters at the beginning or middle of the alphabet.

y and w are letters that come at the end of the alphabet.

O making the SOUND /u/



O makes the sound /u/ before the letters v, n, th.

- /u/ glove
- /u/ money
- /u/ mother

EXCEPTIONS
one - once - stomach



No X next to S

X makes a similar sound to S

never put X next to S



exsit

never have XX together



3 SUFFIXING RULES

Adding a **SUFFIX** (a tail) to a word may make it change.

Read these words. Listen to the different vowel sounds.

hop^{pp}ing

hoping

The vowel has a Long name.

This is a rabbit word!
A rabbit is a short animal and it has 2 ears.

A rabbit word has a short vowel sound and 2 consonant ears.



To remember draw rabbit ears on the two consonants

rule 14

suffixing rule 1

DOUBLING RULE

(sometimes called the 1-1-1 rule)

2 letters to protect the short vowel



hop + ing = hopp^{pp}ing

double

1 syllable
1 short vowel
1 consonant at the end

tail starts with a vowel

snow + ing = snowing

no short sound

no change just add the tail

fun + y = funny

y tail makes vowel sound /e/

melt + ed = melted

2 consonants



rule 15

suffixing rule 2

DROP RULE

hope + ing = hop^eing

spell without the e

body of the word ends with e

tail starts with a vowel

hope + ful = hope^eful

just add the tail keep the e

tail starts with a consonant

rule 16

suffixing rule 3

y changes **y** to **i**

body of the word ends with y
when adding a tail y changes to i
cry + ed = cried

the tail **ing** already has an **i**
You can't have 2 eyes except on your face!
cry + ing = crying
keep the **y**
joy + ful = joyful

Keep Y

EXCEPTION
skiing

rule 17

ed RULE

ed

makes 3

sounds

- hunted /id/
- hopped /t/
- played /d/

How do you **know** when to use **ed, t** or **d**?
Use **-ed** on the end of a **REAL** word.

Ask yourself, is there a **REAL** word before the final sound?

- stop ~~x~~ → stop ✓ → use **ed** **stopped**
- melt → mel ~~x~~ → use **t**
- fold → fol ~~x~~ → use **d**

CHAPTER 3

Advanced Rules



MORE PLURALS

(part 2)

Change **f/fe** to **-ves**

leaf → leaves
 knife → knives

Words ending in **o** add **-es** or **-s**

potato → potatoes
 tomato → tomatoes
 photo → photos
 zero → zeros

IRREGULAR PLURALS

Nouns that **change** vowels.

foot → feet
 tooth → teeth
 man → men

A few words **change** a lot.

mouse → mice
 child → children
 person → people

... and some words **stay** the same!

sheep → sheep
 deer → deer
 fish → fish

THE W RULE



W is a **wizard** letter.



knows **3** spells that **change** letter sounds.

/ɔ/

wa

wasp

/ɔr/

war

warm

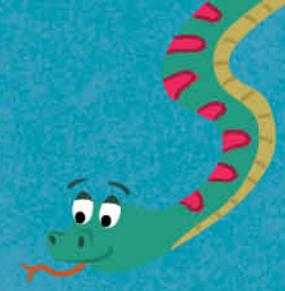
/er/

wor

worm

Try **reading** and **spelling** these words.

qua + squa



knows **1** of **W**'s sound spells.

/ɔ/

quality

/ɔ/

squash

The **sound** of the letter **d** is changed.



du dw

Make the same sound.

du

beginning
or
middle

launch
sauce
haunt
astronaut

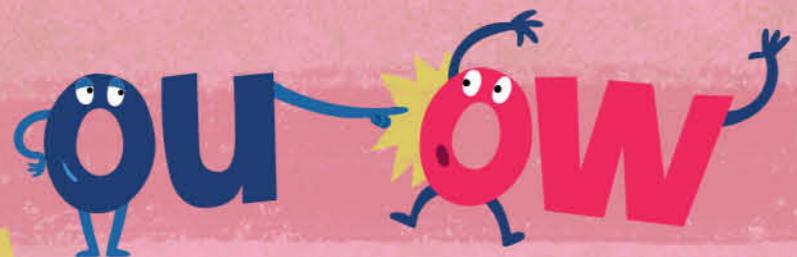
dw

end

before **l**
before **n**
before **k**

law
straw
crawl
yawn
hawk

EXCEPTION
awesome



When **ou** **ow** make the **same** sound.

ou
makes 3 sounds

↓

mouse
soup
cousin

beginning }
middle }
out
count
round
loud
mouse

cow
how
growl
brown

} end
before l
before n

ow
makes 2 sounds

↓

cow
snow

EXCEPTION
crowd

ough



ough is **monstrously** difficult because it **makes** so many different sounds!

 /or/	 /o/	/oo/
thought	through	
/uff/	/off/	
rough	cough	
/ō/	/ow/	
dough	bough	

Oh u great hairy monster

To remember 

draw a hairy monster and say

Oh u great hairy




augh

Another ugly great hairy monster

ō, ā!



			
/or/	/ō/	/arf/	/ā/
caught	laugh		
daughter	slaughter	naughty	taught
			laughter

ch

as /k/ and /sh/

ch
makes
3 sounds

ch

most common



chin
chip
chime

ch

sh



French words

machine
chef
mustache

k



Greek words



tech
school
choir

CONNECTIVE **i**

i sticks to these letters:

t **i** **c** **i** **s** **i**

/sh/ /sh/ /sh/

When these **letters** join **together** they make a new **sound**.

/sh/

-tion

Use **tion** for all **ation** words.

station

Use **tion** after a consonant

junction

/shun/

-cian

Use **cian** for people's jobs.

musician

Can you think of other jobs done by **ian**?



/shun/

-ssion

Use **ssion** for all **mission** words.

permission

Use **ssion** after a **short e**

depression

/zjun/

vision
Makes a different sound.

-cious -tious



/shus/

-cial -tial



/shul/

-cient -tient



/shunt/

To help **pick** the right **ending**, think of the **root** word.

spacece

spaccious

infectt

infecttious

officce

officcial

partt

parttial



SILENT LETTERS

A **silent letter** makes **NO** sound.



They **exist** **because** the words came from other **Languages**.

Look for a **pattern** ...

Silent letters are often positioned next to the same letter.



Silent **b**

climb thumb debt

Silent **k**

knife know knee

Silent **g**

gnome gign

Silent **u**

guitar guide

Silent **c**

scissors muscles

Silent **n**

column hymn

To remember mispronounce and say the **silent letter**



skissors



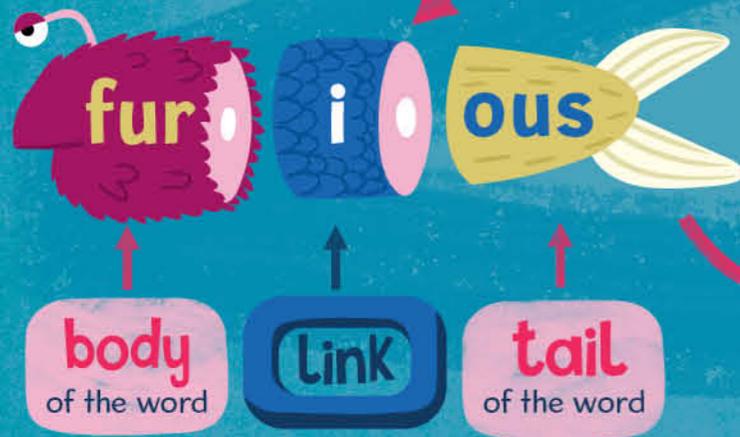
LINKS

(sometimes called a **connective**)

fury + **ous**

When **y** changes to **i** sometimes it **becomes** a **LINK** between the **body** and **tail** of the word.

As it is **squeezed**, **i** makes the sound **/e/**



Learn these **Link** endings.

/e/ /us/

-ious
anxious

/e/ /uns/

-ience
experience

/e/ /ist/

-iest
busiest

/e/ /un/

-ion
million

/e/ /s/

-ies
berries

/e/ /er/

-ier
barrier

/e/ /unt/

-iant
variant

/e/ /d/

-ied
married

/e/ /un/

-ian
librarian

Add suffix



1 Just add

-Ly is a suffix. Many words add -ly to the end.

week + Ly becomes weekly

lone + Ly becomes lonely

2 Words ending in ful become fully

careful + Ly becomes carefully

3 Words ending in l become lly

final + l becomes finally

4 Words ending in ic become ally

basic + Ly becomes basically

5 Words ending in le become ly

simple + Ly becomes simply

6 Words ending in al add ly

normal + Ly becomes normally

7 Words ending in y change y to i (the y rule)

happy + Ly becomes happily

7 WAYS to SPELL /j/

j dge ge gi gy du di

(all make the **same** sound)



At the beginning

j

or

ge

Use j before letters

a o u

jacket
job
just

Use g before letters

i y e

gentle
giant
gym

At the End of Words

ge **gy**

or

dge



(THE PROTECTOR Rule)

1 syllable

Use **dge** after a **short vowel**

bridge

2-3 syllable

Use **ge** for words ending in **age**

manage

Use **gy** for all other words

biology

Connecting **root** and **suffix**

/j/

gradual

/j/

sold**ier**

5 WAYS to SPELL /K/ SOUND

c k ck ch que
(all make the **same** sound)



At the beginning of words

C or **K**

(**CUDDLY**  **KICKING** )

Always use **C** as a first choice.

coat
act
music

Use **K** before **i y e**
(**SOFT C** rule)

skill
sky
key

At the end of words

ck

Use **ck** at the **end** of a **1 syllable** word, after a **short vowel**.

lock
peck
back

THE PROTECTOR Rule



ch

Makes the sound /k/ in **words** that come from **Greek**.

anchor
choir
character

the 3 sounds of **ch**

qu que

Makes the sound /k/ in **words** that come from **French**.

antique
mosquito
conquer



At the **end** of a word,
ce **se**
make the **same** sound.



When to use **ce**

For **words** ending in **ace** and **ice**
face **rice**
place **advice**

EXCEPTION
lettuce

After **n**
fence **dance**

EXCEPTION
rinse



When to use **se**

After **r**
nurse
course

After **oo**
goose
choose

Makes sound **/z/**
nose
bruise

ENDING a WORD with er or ar

Words that end with er or ar are difficult to spell as they all make the same sound and there is no clear rule as there are lots of exceptions.

er

Most common try first.

computer
faster

calendar

or

Use or after:

ct	r
doctor	horror
it	s
visitor	sensor

ar

Use ar after **L**:

so ar
regular ar

Y as a vowel

Y makes vowel sounds /ɪ/ /i/ /ē/ in multisyllabic words.

3 SOUNDS

At the beginning of words as a consonant sound.

yesterday

In the middle of words as a vowel sound.

/ɪ/ pyramid

/i/ psychology

At the end of words as a vowel sound.

1 syllable	2+syllables
/ɪ/ try	/ē/ baby



The **BEST** known spelling rule
but one of the **Least** helpful
as it has **Lots** of **EXCEPTIONS**

The **rule** applies when making a **choice** between **ie** or **ei**

The **FULL** rule is:
i before e
except after **C**
and when **sounded** as /A/
as in **neighbor** and **weigh**



ie (try first)

field
thief
believe

EXCEPTIONS
weird
height
seize

ei use after **C**

receive
ceiling

EXCEPTIONS
science - glacier

use where the
sound is /A/

rein
beige



ASSIMILATED PREFIXES

A **PREFIX** is said to be **assimilated** when the **Last** letter changes to be the **same** as the **ROOT**.



Knowing the **meaning** of a **PREFIX** helps **vocabulary**

PREFIX (meaning)	ROOT	CHANGE
ad (to) +	peal	= appeal
in (not) +	legal	= illegal
sub (under) +	focate	= suffocate

8 ways to spell Long A

Become **familiar** with the **different** ways of **representing** the **same** sound.

beginning or **middle**

(try first) **a-e** sale } /a/

ai sail }

ei reindeer }

eigh eight }

(Less common) **a** April

ea steak

At the **end**

ay delay

they

Ask yourself, where is the **SOUND**?



8 ways to spell Long E

HOMOPHONES are words that **SOUND** the same but are spelled differently.

1 syllable

(try first) **ee** see
ea sea
(Less common) **ie** brief

2+ syllables

y candy
e-e delete
e even
ei receive
ey honey

8 ways to spell Long i

1 syllable

(try first) **i-e** line
igh high
y sky
(few words) **ie** pie

2+ syllables

i-e invite
igh delight
i silent
y type

5 ways to spell Long O

beginning or middle

(try first) **o-e** rode

oa road

(few words) **oe** toe

At the end

ow elbow

2+syllables

o-e antelope

o hotel

8 ways to spell Long U

beginning or middle

(try first) **oo** moon

ui fruit

u-e cube

(few words) **ou** soup

eu feud

At the end

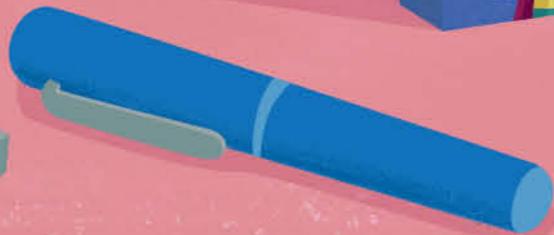
ew chew

ue blue

2 syllables

u music

Also by **Nessy**



Nessy programs



Visit **nessy.com** to watch video explanations of the rules and get **FREE** worksheets and word lists.

INDEX

rule page

ai • ay 58, 59
 alphabetic principle 22, 23
 ar 50
 au • aw 72, 73
 augh 77
 blending 18
 C or K 47
 CCVC 26
 ce • se 94
 ch as sh/k 78, 79
 cial • tial 82, 83

rule page

cian 81
 cious • tious 82, 83
 ck or k 54
 Connective i 80, 81
 consonants 25
 CVC 17
 CVCC 27
 decoding 19
 dge of ge 55
 digraph 28, 29
 diphthong 35
 er 51

rule page

-er -ar -or 96
 floss 42, 43
 grapheme 15
 i before e 98, 99
 consonants 25
 igh • y 58, 59
 irregular plurals 69
 /j/ rule 90, 91
 /k/ rule 92, 93
 links 86, 87
 long /A/ 101
 long /E/ 102

rule page

long /i/ 103
 long /o/ 104
 long /u/ 105
 ly rule 88, 89
 Magic e 44, 45
 o as /u/ 60
 oa ow 58, 59
 oi oy 58, 59
 oo ew 58, 59
 ou ow 74, 75
 ough 76
 phoneme 15
 phonics 15
 Plurals -s -es 56, 57

rule page

prefix 36
 Protectors 54, 55
 qua squa 71
 quadgraph 31
 r Controlled 50, 51
 segmenting 21
 sh 28
 silent e 44, 45
 silent letters 84, 85
 soft c 48
 soft g 49
 split vowel digraph 44, 45

rule page

ssion 81
 suffix 37
 syllables 32
 tch or ch 55
 tion 81
 trigraph 30
 V rule 46
 VCe 34, 44
 vowel r 50, 51
 vowel re 53
 vowel rr 52
 vowels 24
 wa war wor 70
 Y as a vowel 97



First Edition
First published in Great Britain in 2023.
© Nessy Learning Ltd 2023.
The moral right of this author has been asserted.
All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted,
in any form or by any means,
without the prior permission in writing of the publisher,
nor be otherwise circulated in any form of binding
or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar
condition and including this condition being imposed
on the subsequent purchaser.

ISBN: 978-1-7395915-1-9
Nessy Learning, Worrall Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 2XH, UK
T: +44 (0)117 923 9777 / E: info@nessy.co.uk
Nessy Learning, LLC, 1031 Andrews Hwy, Suite 303,
Midland, TX 79701, USA
T: +1 432-704-1717 / E: info@nessy.com

