

Master Rules - List 1

/a/ is spelled a as is *cat*

Master Rules - List 2

/e/ is spelled e as is *nest*

Master Rules - List 3

/i/ is spelled i as is *big*

Master Rules - List 4

/o/ is spelled o as is *hot*

Master Rules - List 5

/u/ is spelled u as is *run*

Master Rules - List 6

/ā/ can be spelled ay, ai, ey, ei, eigh, ea, or
a-consonant-e

Master Rules - List 7

/ē/ can be spelled ee, ea, y, ie, ei, ey, or e-consonant-e

Master Rules - List 8

/ī/ can be spelled ie, igh, y, i-consonant-e, or i + 2consonants

Master Rules - List 9

/ō/ can be spelled oe, ow, oa, o + 2consonants, or o-consonant-e

Master Rules - List 10

/ū/ can be spelled ew, ue, ui, o, or u-consonant-e

Master Rules - List 11

/àr/ is spelled ar as in jar

Master Rules - List 12

/ûr/ can be spelled ir, er, ur, or (work), ear (pearl), or our (journal)

Master Rules - List 13

/or/ can be spelled or, oar, oor, our, or ar (dwarf)

Master Rules - List 14

/âr/ can be spelled are, air, ere, eir, ear

Master Rules - List 15

/îr/ can be spelled ear, eer, ere, ier, eir, or er

Master Rules - List 16

/ou/ is usually spelled ow before a final L or at the end of a word or syllable. It is usually spelled ou in the middle of a word or syllable.

Master Rules - List 17

/ô/ is spelled aw before a final K, L, or N or at the end of a word.

It can be spelled a, o, or au in the middle of words.

Master Rules - List 18

/oi/ can be spelled oy, or oi

Master Rules - List 19

/u/ can be spelled u (put), ou (could), or oo (took)

Master Rules - List 20

Sometimes the letter o makes unusual sounds such as in come, mother, and one.

Master Rules - List 21

Q is always followed by the letter U in English words

Master Rules - List 22

Some words have silent letters like K (knew), W (write), and L (talk).

Master Rules - List 23

no English words end with the letter V

Master Rules - List 24

Consonants are often doubled after a short vowel sound in short vowel words (egg, ball)

Master Rules - List 25

Sometimes /yûr/ can be spelled ure as in pure

Master Rules - List 26

When adding -ness or -ly to words NOT ending in Y, the base word stays the same

Master Rules - List 27

When added to a syllable or as a suffix, till and full are spelled with only one L (until, joyful)

Master Rules - List 28

/àn/ is some spelled as en (golden)

Master Rules - List 29

/àl/ can be spelled le, el, al, il, ol, ul, or ile

Master Rules - List 30

Most words are made plural by adding s. If the word ends with sh, zh, z, s, j, ch, or x sounds, the plural is es and is pronounced as a separate syllable.

Master Rules - List 31

Plurals of some words are irregular (man→men)

Master Rules - List 32

For suffixes on words ending in Y, change Y to I first (try → tri + ed = tried). BUT! If there is a vowel in front of the Y, do not change it (stay + ed = stayed)

Master Rules - List 33

To add a suffix starting with a vowel (-ing), drop the final "e" first (make - e + ing = making)

Master Rules - List 34

In short vowel words, double the end consonant before adding the suffix (hop + p + ing = hopping)

Master Rules - List 35

Proper nouns are the name of something. They must begin with an upper case letter.

Master Rules - List 36

New words can be made by putting to shorter words together
(cow + boy = cowboy)

Master Rules - List 37

Contractions are when two words are shortened and an
apostrophe (') replaces the missing letters.

Master Rules - List 38

Some words are joined by a hyphen (twenty-two)

Master Rules - List 39

Sometimes words used together must be spelled as 2 separate
words (a lot).

Master Rules - List 40

An apostrophe is used to show ownership. It goes before the S if it belongs to one (Ann's). It goes after the S if it belongs to more than one (boys').

Master Rules - List 41

Shortened words and titles need a period—except for 2-letter US state abbreviations.

Master Rules - List 42

/shun/ can be spelled tion, sion, or cian

Master Rules - List 43

/às/ can be spelled ous, or ace

Master Rules - List 44

/ànce/ can be spelled ance, or ence

Master Rules - List 45

/ment/ is usually spelled ment

Master Rules - List 46

Prefixes do not usually change the root word. Some prefixes show quantity (uni = one, bi = two).

Master Rules - List 47

These unusual words do not fit most spelling rules.