Grammar on the Go!





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Grammar on the Go!

Which witch is which? Making sure our words are spelled correctly can help avoid confusion in our writing so we know that the messages we send are clear and correct.

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Answer Key

Grammar on the Go! Spelling 1

SIFELLING BASICS

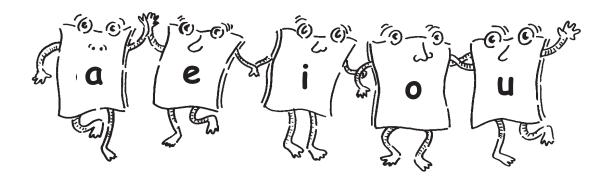
The Importance of Spelling

Spelling is important in written communication. If you misspell words, your readers might not understand you. If you are having some difficulty with spelling, do not be discouraged. Spelling can be mastered. First you must convince yourself that correct spelling is important. Then you must find your difficulty, look for the remedy, and then apply it.

How to Study Spelling

Here are a few suggestions for studying troublesome words:

- Look at the word closely from left to right.
- Say each word carefully, pronouncing each syllable distinctly.
- Think about the word. How many syllables are there?
- Does it have a prefix or a suffix? Does it have a root word?
- Write the word. Check it. If it is wrong, start again with step one until you can spell it correctly.



Vowels

The vowels are **a**, **e**, **i**, **o**, **u** (and sometimes **y**). Y is a vowel in the word **type** and when it is used at the end of a word, as in **quickly**. In words like **yacht**, **yes**, and **yak**, Y is a consonant. Any letter that is not a vowel is a consonant.

A vowel may be long or short. We say a vowel is long when it **names itself** within the word. This is indicated by a straight horizontal line above the vowel:

bāke sēēk pīne nōte mūte

We say a vowel is short when it takes the sound given in the following words. This is indicated by the *symbol above the vowel:

căt pĕt tĭn hŏt bŭck

A vowel may also be silent. This means it is not sounded. The most frequent silent vowel is the e at the end of a word:

bake pine coke cute bike





New words can be built up from root words by using affixes. A **root word** is a base word to which affixes are attached. For example, the words clearly, cleared, and unclear share a common root word: **clear**.

An **affix** is an element added to the root or stem of a word to change its meaning. An affix, then, is an addition that may be either at the beginning of a word or at its end.

Prefixes

An affix at the beginning of a word is called a prefix. A prefix is a group of letters fastened to the front of a root or stem. Consider the Latin origin of the word:



A tremendous number of words begin with prefixes. The prefix is in bold:

deform interact construction

sure—unsure increase—decrease bicycle—tricycle



Prefixes can completely or partially alter the meaning of the root word.

The following chart contains a number of commonly used prefixes.

Prefix	Meaning	Example
ad, af, ag, at	to, toward	adventure, affix, agree, attend
anti	against	antibody
bi	two	bicycle
com, con	with, together	communicate, contain
contra, counter	against	contraband, counteract
de, dis	down, not	decrease, decline, disagree
ex	out, out of	exclaim, except
in	in, into	increase, insure
in, im, il, ir	not	insane, impossible, illegible, irresponsible



Prefixes

Review the meanings of **in-**, **im-**, **il-** and **ir-**. Then, write the negative version of the word into the chart below. Check the dictionary if you are unsure.

Root Word	Negative Form	
Human		_
Visible		_
Efficient		_
Logical	,	_
Replaceable		- M
Polite		- M
Mortal		
Reversible		
Competent	,	
Patient		
Timed		_ / ir-
Practical		
Active		_
Legal		P a
Direct		im-
Regular		B 8
Eligible		
Responsible		- <u> </u>
veshousinie	_	- 4

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Suffixes

An affix at the end of a word is called a suffix. A suffix is a group of letters fastened to the end of a root.

Suffixes, like prefixes, can add to or alter the meaning of a word. Many suffixes are used in English. The following charts give some of the more common ones.



Noun Forming Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-er -or -ian -ant -ent -eer -ess -ist	one who	worker actor musician attendant superintendent mountaineer actress artist
-age -ance -ence -ation -dom -hood -ism -ment -ness -ship -ity -ry -ance -ion	state of being or condition the act of	courage attendance independence hesitation kingdom falsehood socialism statement loveliness friendship acidity rivalry performance construction



Adjective Forming Suffixes

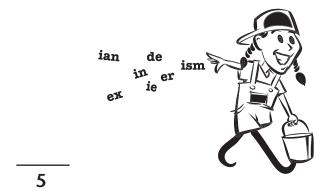
Suffix	Meaning	Example
-ive -ish -ic -al	possessing, having the quality of	descriptive selfish chronic musical
-ary -ous -ly -less -ful -like -ward	without full of like towards	imaginary courageous lovely friendless hopeful childlike westward

Creating Words

Complete the following equations to formulate new words. Then, write a definition for the new word.

4. love + ly = ______

5. construct + ion = ______
Definition



Adding Suffixes

You learned that a suffix is an affix added at the end of a root or a root stem. Sometimes when you add a suffix, you may have to modify the spelling.

When the Root Word Ends in "e"

Words that end in e may give you some difficulty. Here are a few simple rules that will tell you when to drop the final e and when to retain it.



Drop the e before adding a suffix that begins with a vowel.

Imagine—imaginable note—notable excite—excitable

Here is a list of some suffixes that begin with a vowel:

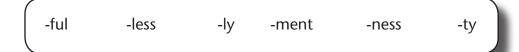




Retain the e before a suffix that begins with a consonant.

amaze—amazement sincere—sincerely excite—excitement

Here are some suffixes that begin with consonants:





Retain e if the word ends with ce or ge, except when adding ed or ing.

service—serviceable—servicing change—changeable—changing notice—noticeable—noticing



Retain the e if a vowel comes just before the final e, except when adding ed.

canoe—canoeing—canoed dye—dyeing—dyed free—freeing—freed

Words Ending in E

Circle the correct spelling in each of the following word pairs.

1. exciteable excitable 2. reversible reverseable 3. replaceable replacable 4. advantageous advantagous 5. safely safly noticeable 6. noticable 7. rangeing ranging 8. excitable exciteable

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When the Root Word Ends With a Consonant

The following spelling rules will help you remember when and when not to double the final consonant when you add a suffix to a word.



Double the final consonant when the word ends in just one consonant.

admit—admitting run—running bar—barring



Double the final consonant if there is only one vowel before the final consonant.

regret (1 vowel)—regretted defeat (2 vowels)—defeated



Double the final consonant if it is the last syllable of the word that is accented.

begin (be gin')—beginning profit (prof' it)—profiting



Double the final consonant only when the suffix to be added begins with a vowel.

regret (add the suffix -ing)—regretting

regret (add the suffix -ful)—regretful



Double the final consonant if the accent does not shift when the suffix is added.

occur (oc cur')—occurrence (oc cur' rence)

More Suffixes

Circle the correct spelling in each of the following word pairs.

1.	controllable	controlable
2.	happened	happenned
3.	mailled	mailed
4.	appealling	appealing
5.	formatted	formated
6.	dropped	droped
7.	preferable	preferrable
8.	programed	programmed

DINDING INTO SYLLABORS

Dividing words into syllables can be a great aid to correct spelling.

Look at the word **imperfectly**. If you remove the prefix, **im**, and the suffix,-**ly**, you are left with the root word, **perfect**.

Clear pronunciation of a word can help with its spelling. Words are made up of one or more syllables, each containing a sounded vowel. If each syllable is clearly spoken, even to the point of exaggeration, its spelling will be easier. As an example, look at the word Canadian. Divided into syllables it appears like this:

Ca/na/di/an

If the word is sounded out by syllables, there will be no danger of writing Canadain.

There are several basic rules for dividing words into syllables.



Count the number of pronounced vowels. There will be one syllable for each vowel that is pronounced:

•				
	tractor	2 sounded vowels	2 syllables	trac/tor
	seldom	2 sounded vowels	2 syllables	sel/dom
	manager	3 sounded vowels	3 syllables	man/a/ger
	pressure	2 sounded vowels	2 syllables	pres/sure

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Divide the word after a prefix or before a suffix.

Prefixes	Suffixes
decide—de/cide	hunting—hunt/ing
resort—re/sort	coldness—cold/ness
unfit—un/fit	pitiful—piti/ful
overrate—over/rate	hideous—hide/ous



Divide compound words between the separate words that have been joined.

classroom—class/room understand—under/stand whatsoever—what/so/ever



Usually we divide words between double consonants:

If the double consonants are part of the root word, they are not split. In this case, the division is made after the double consonants, before the suffix.

annual—an/nual running—run/ning village—vil/lage appear—ap/pear speller—spell/er telling—tell/ing crossing—cross/ing passable—pass/able



Divide two vowels or two consonants if they are pronounced separately:

create—cre/ate sulphur—sul/phur fluent—flu/ent suspect—sus/pect riot—ri/ot burglar—bur/glar

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Here is a brief summary of the five rules for dividing words into syllables.



Rules

- 1. There are always as many syllables in a word as there are vowel audible sounds. If you can hear two vowels in a word, then the word will have two syllables.
- **2** Divide between prefixes and suffixes.
- **?** Divide between separate words of compound words.
- When a consonant has been doubled because a suffix has been added, divide between the double consonants.
- **5.** Divide between two vowels or two consonants sounded separately.



Syllables

Rewrite the following words, dividing them into syllables. .

mixing = mix/ing

- 1. friendliest = _____
- 2. stopping = _____
- 3. employment = _____
- 4. peaceful = _____
- 5. famously = _____
- 6. believable = _____
- 7. responsible = _____
- 8. ticklish = _____



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Silent Letters

Unfortunately, some English words are not spelled the way they are pronounced. English spelling can be rather strange, but if you take time to learn the few troublemakers, you will be a successful speller.

Some troublesome words contain letters that are not sounded, called silent letters.

Look at the words listed below. The silent consonants in each word are in bold. Study them carefully.

calm	dou b t	forei g n	k ni gh t	ec h o	frei gh t
r h yme	si gh	fli gh t	g h ost	s c ene	com b
salmon	yo l k	of t en	de b t	plum b er	ple d ge

Silent Letters

Fill in the missing silent letter for each of the words listed below.

- 1. Always write your name in the right-hand colum......
- 2. My little sister dressed up as a g__ost last Halloween.
- 3. At the farm, we saw the sheep give birth to a lam.....
- 4. Remember to ___nock before entering someone's home.
- 5. We ate birthday cak___ after going to the water-slides.
- 6. We had to call the plum_er when the toilet wasn't working.
- 7. W_ich way should we turn, left or right?
- 8. I cut my __nee and elbow when I fell off my bike.
- 9. In the autum___, we love to see the leaves changing colour.
- 10. The opposite of black is w__ite.

FORMING FINBALS

Here are a few simple rules to remember when forming the plurals of English nouns.

The plurals of most nouns are made by adding s to the singular form. However, for nouns that end in s, x, z, ch, or sh, the plural is formed by adding -es to the word

box—boxes lunch—lunches

When a noun ends in y preceded by a consonant, change the y to ie and add s. When a noun ends in -y preceded by a vowel (ay, ey, oy, uy), just add -s to make the word plural

glory—glories lady—ladies day—days donkey—donkeys

When a noun ends in o preceded by a vowel, add s to make the word plural

radio—radios rodeo—rodeos

All musical terms ending in o have plurals ending in just s

piano—pianos cello—cellos solo—solos

When a noun ends in o preceded by a consonant, either s or es can be added to make the word plural. Some common words that add es are:

echo—echoes hero—heroes potato—potatoes torpedo—torpedoes embargo—embargoes tomato—tomatoes veto—vetoes



Check your dictionary to be sure you have added the correct plural form.

When a noun ends in f or fe, the plural is formed in one of two ways add s to the singular. change f or fe to v and adds es.	roof—roofs dwarf—dwarfs loaf—loaves self—selves knife—knives life—lives
Some plurals may be formed either way	hoof—hoofs or hooves scarf—scarfs or scarves
Some nouns change their spelling to indicate the plural	mouse—mice ox—oxen man—men louse—lice tooth—teeth foot—feet
Nouns borrowed from foreign languages may use the plural ending of the root language, the English ending, or both	
Root language endings:	datum—data alumnus—alumni chateau—chateaux
English endings:	forum—forums campus—campuses bonus—bonuses
Either ending:	index—indices or indexes amoeba—amoebae or amoebas formula—formulae or formulas

Compound words vary.
When they are written as one word, es or s is usually added to the word

Often the principal word is made plural:

cupful—cupfuls handful—handfuls watchdog—watchdogs toothbrush—toothbrushes

editor in chief—editors-inchief mother-in-law—mothers-inlaw lily-of-the-valley—lilies-of-thevalley

Some nouns have the same form for both the singular and plural forms

fowl pants scissors beer deer sheep politics

Forming Plurals

Provide the plural form for each of the following words in the space provided.

- 1. chief _____
- 2. giraffe _____
- 3. hero _____
- 4. cliff _____
- 5. video _____
- 6. thief _____
- 7. photo _____
- 8. half _____
- 9. tooth _____
- 10. church

Improving Spelling

Many people have difficulty spelling words containing ie or ei. They do not know which vowel come first. Here is a simple rule which should help you spell these troublesome words:

"i" before "e" except after "c," except when said "ay" as in "neighbour" and "weigh."

This rule applies in most cases, but like so many other rules, it is sometimes broken. Here is a list of exceptions you must learn:

neither seize leisure foreign protein height either forfeit weird counterfeit



CORRECT WORD FORMS

Certain words in the English language are often improperly used. In this handbook, you will look at some of these words to see how they should be used.

Word	Definition	Example
accept	to take or receive or to agree to	He will accept the position if it is offered him.
except	not including or to leave out of consideration	We all went to the picnic except Grandmother.
advice	a noun meaning guidance or counsel	What advice did the mechanic give about the car?
advise	a verb meaning to give counsel	Please advise me about the car.
affect	a verb meaning cause a change	The test will affect your final mark.
effect	a noun meaning the result of a change	The good mark had a positive effect on the student.
already	previously or by now	She had already eaten supper.
all ready	everyone is completely ready	We were all ready for the party.
aloud	out loud	He cried aloud that he would not give in.
allowed	permitted to do something	Fishing is not allowed in this stream.

Word	Definition	Example
amount	used when referring to a thing that can be measured or weighed	I like a small amount of honey in my tea.
number	used when referring to things that can be counted	He came up with a number of reasons why he liked the idea.
beside	a preposition meaning by or at	Put the parcel beside the bench.
besides	in addition to or also	Besides Jack, five others came.
between	used with only two objects or persons	The money was divided between the two of us.
among	used with three or more objects or persons	The money was divided among the three of us.
borrow	to take temporarily	May I borrow your lawnmower?
lend	to give temporarily	l will lend you my umbrella.
can	able to do something	Can you ride a bicycle?
may	permitted to do or have something	May I have a chocolate?
choose	a present tense verb meaning select	I need to choose my courses for next year.
chose	a past tense verb meaning selected	She chose her courses wisely.
corps	a body or organization with specific duties (pronounced CORE)	The corps of older men was in charge.
corpse	a dead human or animal.	The corpse was transported to the pet cemetary.

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Word	Definition	Example
farther	at a greater distance	She ran farther and faster than anyone thought she could.
further	additional or more	The committee voted to study the issue further before making a decision.
its	a possessive pronoun or adjective meaning belonging to it	The cat scratched its ear.
it's	a contraction meaning it is (the apostrophe shows a missing letter)	It's a Siamese cat.
fewer	not as many (in numbers)	There were fewer people at the party than I expected.
less	not as much (in quantity)	As a result, less food was eaten.
lie	to be at rest in a reclining position	I like to lie down in the afternoon.
lay	to place or put something in place	Please lay the book on the table; it's fragile. (The past tense of "lay" is "laid")
lose	a verb meaning to no longer have	Do not lose this money.
loose	an adjective meaning not fastened	If I lose any more weight, my pants will be too loose .
of	a preposition used to begin a prepositional phrase	One of the puppies yelped.
've	a contraction of the verb have	I could've (could have) read the book of short stories. (Not I could of read the book of short stories)

Word	Definition	Example
quiet	an adjective, noun, or verb meaning not making sound	We need to be quiet so my sister can get some sleep.
quite	an adverb meaning completely	He was not quite finished his test when the bell rang.
quit	a verb meaning stop	l admire people who quit smoking.
than	a conjunction or preposition showing a comparison	My team scored three more goals than their team did.
then	an adverb meaning at that time or next	I have hockey practice after school, and then we're going out for pizza.
their	belonging to them	Their house is exquisitely decorated.
there	indicates place or position; also introduces a sentence when the verb comes before the subject.	There are many contestants over there.
they're	a contraction of the words they are	They're coming to the celebration.
to	in the direction of, upon, until	Fabrizzio came to the house.
too	also or more than enough	We have too much help.
two	the number after one	Two books are enough.
waist	the part of the body between the chest and the hips	The belt was tied around her waist.
waste	to use something in a careless way	Food does not go to waste in a starving country.

Word	Definition	Example
weather	the state of the atmosphere—wind, temperature, moisture	The weather was stormy so the picnic was cancelled.
whether	if	Albert is not sure whether he will attend.
who's	a contraction of who is or who has	Who's lost a pencil?
whose	belonging to which person	Whose pencil is this?
your	belonging to you	Your dog bit me!
you're	a contraction meaning you are	You're not telling me the truth!
were	a past tense of "to be"	They were here earlier.
we're	a contraction for we are	We're going to the late show tonight.



Warning: Your computer's spell check function will find many spelling errors but if you've used the wrong word—for example, its instead of it's—the computer will ignore the word because it is spelled correctly. Be sure to check your writing carefully and make sure you have chosen the correct words.

Confusing Words

Circle the correct word to complete each sentence.

- 1. The poor weather is bound to (effect affect) our race.
- 2. I could ('ve of) won the race if I had better running shoes.
- 3. Marilyn has more books in her locker (than then) Susan does.
- 4. (Weather Whether) you believe it or not, it is a fact.
- 5. There is a greater (number amount) of dogs on Smith Street than on Boyer Road.
- 6. (There They're Their) friends are late for our party.
- 7. Do you know (whose who's) television set was brought in yesterday for repair?
- 8. Are you sure (your you're) ready to go?
- 9. (It's Its) not too late to pitch in and help.
- 10. We are not (aloud allowed) to talk in the library during study period.
- 11. (Lie Lay) the doll on the bed.
- 12. It was (quiet quite) an exciting game to watch.

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- 13. Kato has much more homework to do (than then) Malik does.
- 14. Make sure you don't (lose loose) your wallet when you go to the fair.
- 15. The banker will (advice advise) you on the best mortgage rates.
- 16. Eat your sandwich and (than then) you can have a cookie.
- 17. I refuse to (accept except) your explanation.
- 18. Katrina should (of 've) known the answer.
- 19. Global warming has had an (affect effect) on our (whether weather).
- 20. Paolo and Margaret shared the piece of cake (among between) them.
- 21. There are (fewer less) eggs in the fridge today.





Grammar on the Go!

Answer Key

Spelling

Prefixes p. 7

Root Word	Negative Form	Root Word	Negative Form
Human	Inhumane	Patient	Impatient
Visible	Invisible	Timed	III-timed
Efficient	Inefficient	Practical	Impractical
Logical	Illogical	Active	Inactive
Replaceable	Irreplaceable	Legal	Illegal
Polite	Impolite	Direct	Indirect
Mortal	Immortal	Regular	Irregular
Reversible	Irreversible	Eligible	Ineligible
Competent	Incompetent	Responsible	Irresponsible

Creating Words

p. 9

1. act + or = actor

Definition: a person who acts

2. king + dom = kingdom

Definition: a territory or region subject to a king or queen

3. rival + ry = rivalry

Definition: competition

4. love +ly = lovely

Definition: pleasant, delightful, beautiful

5. construct + ion = **construction**

Definition: the act of building

Words Ending in E

- 1. exciteable excitable
- 2. reversible reverseable
- 3. replaceable replacable
- 4. (advantageous) advantagous

p. 12

- 5.(safely) safly
- 6. noticable (noticeable)
- 7. rangeing (ranging)
- 8. (excitable) exciteable

More Suffixes

- 1. controllable controlable
- 2.(happened) happenned
- 3. mailled (mailed)
- 4. appealing appealing

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- 5. (formatted formated
- 6. (dropped) droped
- 7. (preferable) preferrable
- 8. programed (programmed)

Syllables

- 1. friendliest = friend/li/est
- 2. stopping = stop/ping
- 3. employment = em/ploy/ment
- 4. peaceful = peace/ful
- 5. famously = fam/ous/ly
- 6. believable = **be/liev/able**
- 7. responsible = re/spon/sible
- 8. ticklish = tick/lish

Silent Letters

p. 19

- 1. Always write your name in the right-hand **column**.
- 2. My little sister dressed up as a **ghost** last Halloween.
- 3. At the farm, we saw the sheep give birth to a **lamb**.
- 4. Remember to **knock** before entering someone's home.
- 5. We ate birthday cake after going to the waterslides.
- 6. We had to call the **plumber** when the toilet wasn't working.
- 7. Which way should we turn, left or right?
- 8. I cut my knee and elbow when I fell off my bike.
- 9. In the **autumn**, we love to see the leaves changing colour.
- 10. The opposite of black is white.

Forming Plurals

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1.	chief	chiefs
2.	giraffe	giraffes
3.	hero	heroes
4.	cliff	cliffs
5.	video	videos
6.	thief	thieves
7.	photo	photos
8.	half	halves
9.	tooth	teeth
10.	church	churches

Grammar on the Go! Answer Key 3

1. The poor weather is bound to (effect (affect)) our race.
2. I could (ve) of) won the race if I had better running shoes.
3. Marilyn has more books in her locker (than) then) Susan does.
4. (Weather Whether) you believe it or not, it is a fact.
5. There is a greater (number amount) of dogs on Smith Street than on Boyer Road.
6. (There They're Their) friends are late for our party.
7. Do you know (whose) who's) television set was brought in yesterday for repair?
8. Are you sure (your you're) ready to go?
9. (It's) Its) not too late to pitch in and help.
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15. The banker will (advice (advise)) you on the best mortgage rates.
16. Eat your sandwich and (than then) you can have a cookie.

- 17. I refuse to (accept) except) your explanation.
- 18. Katrina should (of (ve)) known the answer.
- 19. Global warming has had an (affect (effect)) on our (whether (weather)).
- 20. Paolo and Margaret shared the piece of cake (among (between)) them.
- 21. There are (fewer) less) eggs in the fridge today.