## 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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## SHMTHINE 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 $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{o}, \mathbf{u}$ (and sometimes $\mathbf{y}$ ). 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:


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:


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


## BRMABES

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.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { trans }+ \text { port }+ \text { ation }=\text { transportation } \\
& \text { im }+ \text { poss }+ \text { ible }=\text { impossible }
\end{aligned}
$$

## 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:

$$
\text { pre (before) }+ \text { fixus (to fasten) }=\text { prefix }
$$

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

## deform

 interact constructionsure-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 <br> insane, impossible, illegible, <br> in, im, il, ir |
| not | 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.


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

## Adjective Forming Suffixes

| Suffix | Meaning | Example |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| -ive | possessing, <br> having <br> -ish <br> -ic <br> -al | descriptive <br> selfish <br> chronic <br> musical |
| -ary |  | imaginary <br> courageous <br> -ous <br> -ly <br> -less <br> -ful <br> -like <br> -ward |
| lovely <br> friendless <br> hopeful <br> childlike <br> westward |  |  |

## Creating Words

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

$$
\text { 1. } \begin{aligned}
& \text { act }+ \text { or }= \\
& \text { Definition }
\end{aligned}
$$

$\qquad$
$\qquad$
2. king + dom $=$
3. rival + ry = $\qquad$ Definition

| 4. $\begin{array}{l}\text { love }+l y= \\ \text { Definition }\end{array}$ |
| :--- |

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:

| -able | -ary | -ence | -ery | -ible |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| -ance | -ed | -er | -est | -ize |
|  |  |  |  |  |

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.


## 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.

Double the final consonant if it is the last syllable of the word that is accented.
regret (1 vowel)—regretted defeat (2 vowels)—defeated
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.


## DIUTDLNE INTH SUHLTIBLAS

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:


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.

c
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 |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Divide the word after a prefix or before a suffix.

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

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

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


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


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

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.
3. Divide between separate words of compound words.
4. When a consonant has been doubled because a consonants.
5. Divide between two vowels or two consonants sounded separately.


## Syllables

Rewrite the following words, dividing them into syllables. .

$$
\text { mixing }=\text { mix/ing }
$$

1. friendliest = $\qquad$
2. stopping $=$ $\qquad$
3. employment = $\qquad$
4. peaceful = $\qquad$
5. famously = $\qquad$
6. believable = $\qquad$
7. responsible $=$ $\qquad$
8. ticklish $=$ $\qquad$


## 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 | doubt | foreign | knight | echo | freight |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| rhyme | sigh | flight | ghost | scene | comb |
| salmon | yolk | often | debt | plumber | pledge |

## 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 $\qquad$ .
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 waterslides.
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.

## FDRININE HTUTRALS

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 $\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}$, ch, or $\mathbf{s h}$, the plural is formed by adding -es to the word
 preceded by a consonant, change the $y$ to ie and add $s$. When a noun ends in $-\mathbf{y}$ preceded by a vowel (ay, ey, oy, uy), just add -s to make the word plural


When a noun ends in o preceded by a vowel, add s to make the word plural
radio—radios
rodeo—rodeos
 in o have plurals ending in just s


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:
box-boxes
lunch—lunches
glory—glories
lady_ladies
day-days
donkey-donkeys
piano-pianos
cello-cellos
solo-solos
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 $\mathbf{f}$ or fe, the plural is formed in one of two ways <br> $\operatorname{add} \boldsymbol{s}$ to the singular. change $\mathbf{f}$ or $\mathbf{f e}$ to $\mathbf{v}$ 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 <br> formula-formulae or formulas |

Compound words vary. When they are written as one word, es or s is usually added to the word
$\theta$
Often the principal word is made plural:


Some nouns have the same form for both the singular and plural forms
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
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 $\qquad$
5. video
6. thief $\qquad$
7. photo $\qquad$
8. half
9. tooth $\qquad$
10. church $\qquad$

## 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 |



## 

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


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


| Word | Definition | Example |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| farther <br> further | at a greater distance <br> additional or more | She ran farther and faster than anyone thought she could. <br> The committee voted to study the issue further before making a decision. |
| its it's | a possessive pronoun or adjective meaning belonging to it <br> a contraction meaning it is (the apostrophe shows a missing letter) | The cat scratched its ear. <br> It's a Siamese cat. |
| fewer less | not as many (in numbers) <br> not as much (in quantity) | There were fewer people at the party than I expected. <br> As a result, less food was eaten. |
| lie lay | to be at rest in a reclining position to place or put something in place | I like to lie down in the afternoon. <br> Please lay the book on the table; it's fragile. (The past tense of "lay" is "laid") |
| lose <br> loose | a verb meaning to no longer have <br> an adjective meaning not fastened | Do not lose this money. <br> If I lose any more weight, my pants will be too loose. |
| of 've | a preposition used to begin a prepositional phrase <br> a contraction of the verb have | One of the puppies yelped. <br> 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 <br> quite <br> quit | an adjective, noun, or verb meaning not making sound <br> an adverb meaning completely <br> a verb meaning stop | We need to be quiet so my sister can get some sleep. <br> He was not quite finished his test when the bell rang. <br> I admire people who quit smoking. |
| than <br> then | a conjunction or preposition showing a comparison <br> an adverb meaning at that time or next | My team scored three more goals than their team did. <br> I have hockey practice after school, and then we're going out for pizza. |
| their <br> there <br> they're | belonging to them <br> indicates place or position; also introduces a sentence when the verb comes before the subject. <br> a contraction of the words they are | Their house is exquisitely decorated. <br> There are many contestants over there. <br> They're coming to the celebration. |
| to <br> too <br> two | in the direction of, upon, until also or more than enough the number after one | Fabrizzio came to the house. <br> We have too much help. <br> Two books are enough. |
| waist <br> waste | the part of the body between the chest and the hips <br> to use something in a careless way | The belt was tied around her waist. <br> Food does not go to waste in a starving country. |


| Word | Definition | Example |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| weather <br> whether | the state of the atmospherewind, temperature, moisture if | The weather was stormy so the picnic was cancelled. <br> Albert is not sure whether he will attend. |
| who's <br> whose | a contraction of who is or who has <br> belonging to which person | Who's lost a pencil? <br> Whose pencil is this? |
| your <br> you're | belonging to you <br> a contraction meaning you are | Your dog bit me! <br> You're not telling me the truth! |
| were <br> we're | a past tense of "to be" <br> a contraction for we are | They were here earlier. <br> 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.
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 <br> p. 7

| Root Word | Negative Form | Root Word | Negative Form |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Human | Inhumane | Patient | Impatient |
| Visible | Invisible | Timed | Ill-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. $\mathrm{act}+\mathrm{or}=$ actor

Definition: a person who acts
2. king + dom = kingdom

Definition: a territory or region subject to a king or queen
3. rival $+r y=$ 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

## More Suffixes

1. controllable
controlable
2. happened
happenned
3. controllable
controlable
4. happened
happenned
5. controllable
controlable
6. happened
happenned
7. controllable
controlable
8. happened
happenned
9. mailled
mailed
10. appealling
appealing

Syllables
appealing
p. 12
5. safely
6. noticable
noticeable
7. rangeing
ranging
8. excitable
exciteable
p. 14
5. formatted
formated
6. dropped
droped
7. preferable
preferrable
8. programed
programmed

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

p. 23

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

## Confusing Words

 p. 301. The poor weather is bound to (effect affect) our race.
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3. Marilyn has more books in her locker (than) then) Susan does.
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8. Are you sure ( your you're) ready to go?
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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 (@ccept 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.
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