Mastering Regular Words: Spelling by the Rules

Regular words follow patterns. These patterns—or principles—make spelling easier, especially when dealing with new or unfamiliar words. This lesson will help you spot the most common spelling rules and give you practice applying them.

# 🤔 What Are Regular Words?

Regular words are the ones that follow rules like doubling consonants, dropping silent letters, or changing 'y' to 'i'. Once you learn the patterns, you can often figure out how to spell new words even if you’ve never seen them before.

# 🌱 Language Grows Like Nature

Language isn’t built to follow rules—it grows and changes over time, kind of like animals or plants. That’s why we observe, compare, and find patterns in spelling, just like scientists do with living things.

# 🧪 Examples of Spelling Principles

1. Double the consonant when adding -ed or -ing (e.g., run → running).  
2. Drop the silent 'e' before -ing or -able (e.g., bake → baking).  
3. Change 'y' to 'i' when adding endings (e.g., happy → happier).  
4. Vowels are usually long when followed by one consonant in a two-syllable word (e.g., “Cody” not “Coddy”).

# 😬 Why Do People Struggle Anyway?

People often struggle with spelling because they never clearly learned the rules, didn’t get enough practice, or only memorized exceptions. Understanding patterns helps avoid confusion and gives you confidence when spelling new words.

# 🎯 What To Do About It

- Learn and review spelling rules regularly.  
- Practice applying those rules to both familiar and unfamiliar words.  
- If you’re unsure, use the regular spelling rule—it’s right about 90% of the time!

# ✅ Practice: Apply the Rule!

Write the correct spelling for each word and the rule that applies:

1. stop → \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (add -ing)

2. bake → \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (add -ing)

3. happy → \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (change to comparative)

4. hope → \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (add -ful)

5. rob → \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (add -ed)

6. cry → \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (add -ing)