

Spelling Rules and Generalizations

1.

-ff -ll -ss -zz

Flat level sings Rule

When a one syllable word ends in the /f/, /l/, /s/ or /z/ sound, double the final f, l, s, or z after a short vowel.

Examples: cuff, pill, mess, and buzz

2.

c- k-

Use c before a consonant or the vowels a, o, and u. Use k before the vowels e, i, and y.

Examples: cat, cot, cut, key, kiss

3.

-k -ck

When a one syllable word ends in the /k/ sound, use -ck after a short vowel.

Examples: neck, pick, and sack

However, use k after a consonant, long vowel sound and after 2 vowels.

Examples: silk, cake, and speak

4.

-ch -tch

When a one syllable word ends in the /ch/ sound, use -tch after a short vowel, use ch otherwise.

Examples: patch, witch Exceptions: rich, which, much, such but branch, bench

5.

-ge -dge

When a one syllable word ends in the //sound, use -dge after a short vowel, -ge after a consonant or long vowel.

Examples: hedge, badge

but fringe, huge