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WORDS AND MORE WORDS

If we didn't have rules to guide us in our spelling, we could never hope to learn all the words in the English language. Our only chance is to learn all the rules; to practise them over and over again and of course try to remember the exceptions!

Some basic words for you to learn before you start this book:

1. Vowel

The letters of the alphabet can be divided into two groups: **vowels** and **consonants**.

There are five vowels: **a**, **e**, **i**, **o** and **u**. These give the word its shape and sound.

2. Consonant

There are twenty proper consonants in the alphabet. They are definite sounds made by the lips and tongue and divide up the vowel sounds into syllables.

The letter **y** is not a true consonant, although it is often used as one, for example in the word *yacht*. It can also be a vowel, as in *my*, *sky* or *dye*.

3. Singular – this refers to one of any thing, for example *girl*, *boy*, *train*.

4. Plural – this refers to more than one of any thing, for example *girls*, *boys*, *trains*.

LEARN THE ALPHABET

Always keep a dictionary handy to look up any words you cannot spell. You will find the words are arranged in alphabetical order starting with A – so the first thing to do is to **learn the alphabet**.

Copy the letters below in the spaces provided.

A B C D

E F G H

I J K L

M N O P

Q R S T

U V W X

Y Z

a b c d

e f g h

i j k l

m n o p

q r s t

u v w x

y z



ADD AN 'E'

When you add a silent **e** to the end of the word, you change the sound and meaning.

Look at these examples:

hop + e = hope can + e = cane

Add an **e** to each of the following words. Say the word aloud and listen to the change in sound. The first one is done for you.

Can you think of any more? Add them to the column under *My List*.

man + e = mane	My List
cap + e
fin + e
sit + e
tap + e
rid + e
not + e
pan + e
mad + e
fad + e



SILENT 'E'

There are two rules for spelling words with a silent e.

Rule 1

When a word ends in a silent e, you drop the e before adding an ending beginning with a vowel, such as:

-ed, -er, -en, -ing, -ous, -able

Try these examples. The first one is done for you.

take + ing **taking**

tame + er

dance + ed

desire + able

make + ing

time + ed

come + ing

live + ed

fame + ous

Can you think of any exceptions to this rule? Write them below.

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