

## Spelling Rule #1: Silent 'e'

Words with only a single vowel usually use a short vowel sound (examples: big, hut).

When a one-syllable word ends in a {vowel – consonant – 'e'} pattern, the first vowel makes a long vowel sound and the 'e' is silent (examples: lime, those, gave, state).

Directions: In each sentence, use a green crayon to circle the word with a long vowel sound and a silent 'e'. Use a pencil to underline a similar looking word in the sentence that does not have a silent 'e' and uses a short vowel sound.

Example: The light is very dim so I can't see your dime.

1. The boy is wearing a blue cap and a superhero cape.
2. Put that inner tube in the tub.
3. Can I eat the candy cane?
4. I hope I can hop as far as he can.
5. I stuck my ribbon to the pine tree with a pin.
6. Sandy slid down the long slide.
7. You hid earlier. Now it is my turn to hide.
8. How long did you stare at that far away star?

Note to parents: The long vowel/silent 'e' rule is most consistent with single syllable words that have only a single consonant before the 'e' (examples: made, rose). That's why these are the only ones included in this rule.

When you get to multi-syllable words, the rule doesn't seem to hold as well (examples: garage, castle).

Words with a double consonant before the silent 'e' (but a single syllable) also don't follow the long vowel/silent 'e' rule consistently (examples: 'fringe' and 'since' versus 'range' and 'taste').

One other note: a word with a long vowel sound or a vowel blend (ou, oo, au, oi) does not need the silent 'e' to given it its vowel sound (the double vowel serves that purpose), so when it does end in a silent 'e', the 'e' is there for some other purpose (e.g. peace). I will address these after rule 5.

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Directions:

This time, in each sentence there may be more than one word with a silent 'e'. Use a green crayon to circle every word you find with a long vowel sound and a silent 'e'.

Beside each sentence, I have indicated in parentheses how many words you should find.

Note: if a word ends in an 'e', but the 'e' is not silent (example: in the word 'tree' you can hear the 'e' sound), you should not circle the word; it does not fit into the silent 'e' rule.

- (2) 1. The baby bear sat on an ice cube to cool off.
- (2) 2. Don't wake me up until nine o'clock.
- (1) 3. Did you wash your plate?
- (3) 4. I made a cake and then I ate it with my sister.
- (2) 5. Why did you poke me on the nose?

If desired, have your child copy each of the rule #1 words and exceptions used above on a separate sheet of lined paper. Have your child underline each exception copied in this way in order to make them stand out from the rule words.

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Some common exceptions: done, gone, have, live, give, some, one, are

Directions:

1. In each sentence, use a green crayon to circle any words with a long vowel sound and a silent 'e'.
2. Use the green crayon to underline any exceptions to the rule.

Example: You need to come home by five o'clock.

(the word 'come' does not have a long vowel sound, so it is an exception to the rule)

Beside each sentence, I have indicated how many words you should find as follows: (# rule words, # exception words for this rule)

Note: if a word ends in an 'e', but the 'e' is not silent (example: 'tree' – you can hear the 'e' sound), you should not circle the word; it does not fit into the silent 'e' rule.

- (2,0)      1. Let's fly the kite that my parents gave me.
- (1,2)      2. Have you gone to the store yet?
- (2,0)      3. I am the same age as my best friend.
- (3,0)      4. I rode my bike for a long time.
- (1,1)      5. I am done with my chore.

If desired, have your child copy each of the rule #1 words and exceptions used above on a separate sheet of lined paper. Have your child underline each exception copied in this way in order to make them stand out from the rule words.

**Spelling Rule #1: Silent 'e'**  
Writing Practice

Say each word listed below and then write the word on the line next to it (or copy them from the computer screen onto a blank sheet of lined paper if preferred).

time \_\_\_\_\_

Some Exceptions:

rode \_\_\_\_\_

live \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_

one \_\_\_\_\_ (the number)

slide \_\_\_\_\_

have \_\_\_\_\_

line \_\_\_\_\_

some \_\_\_\_\_

more \_\_\_\_\_

cube \_\_\_\_\_

rare \_\_\_\_\_