SPELLING RULES & GENERALIZATIONS
(Haskell and Eps)

FLOSS
If you have a:
- one-syllable word
- word ends in f, l, or s (and z) [right after the short vowel]
- almost always, double the f, l or s (and z)
  - Examples: sniff, hill, gull, boss, miss, staff, grass, Jeff, fizz, bell, less, buzz
  - Common exceptions: his, this, has, yes, was, gas, if, of, us, is

LONGER, STRONGER SPELLING (3 WAYS)
-K & -CK (end of grade 1)
If you have a:
- single-syllable word ending in the /k/ sound
- the /k/ sound comes right after a single short vowel
- Spell /k/ with the longer, stronger spelling ck
  - Examples: smack, truck, stick, deck, lock
- Use k after a consonant or a vowel team/vr
  - Examples: stink, thank, milk, look, speak, fork

-CH & -TCH (grades 2-12)
If you have a:
- single-syllable word ending in the /ch/ sound
- the /ch/ sound comes right after a single short vowel
- spell /ch/ with the longer, stronger spelling tch
  - Examples: snatch, fetch, hitch, clutch
- If a consonant comes after the vowel, use ch
  - Examples: mulch, finch, lunch
- If there is not a single, short vowel, use ch
  - Examples: each, march
Common exceptions: much, such, rich, which, sandwich

-GE & -DGE (grades 3-12)
If you have a:
- single-syllable word ending in the /j/ sound
- the /j/ sound comes right after a single short vowel
- spell /j/ with the longer, stronger spelling -dge

• Examples: badge, edge, dodge, fudge
• Use -ge after a consonant or after a long vowel sound
  ○ Examples: cage, fringe, barge, gouge

**Suffix Rules: Double, Drop, & Change**

**Doubling (1-1-1)**
When adding a *vowel* suffix (must be sure to explicitly teach), if you have a:

- one (1) syllable word
- ends in one (1) consonant after
- one (1) short vowel
- Double the consonant before adding the suffix.
  ○ Examples: running, maddest, thinner
  ○ Non-examples: sprinting, badly, shipment (discuss why the consonant does not double)

**Drop (Drop the ‘E’)**
When adding a *vowel* suffix to a word with a final silent “e,” drop the “e” and add the vowel suffix.

- Examples: sloping, hazy, baked
- Non-examples: careful, nameless (discuss why the consonant does not double)

**Change (Change the ‘Y’ to ‘I’)**
When adding a *suffix* to a word ending in ‘y’...

- keep the ‘y’ if the letter before it is a vowel.
- change the ‘y’ to ‘i’ if the letter before it is a consonant (except if the suffix begins with ‘i’)
  ○ Examples: played, playing, carried, carrying, enjoyed, luckiest

Other generalizations to be aware of:

- y as a vowel
- oi/oy
- ai/ay
- most kind old wild words
- ou/ow
- au/aw
- -tion/-sion

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Work Cited
