

# Step 15: A Review of Common Rules

- Rule #1: When there is only one vowel in a syllable or word (not at the end of the syllable or word), it usually has a short sound.
- Rule #2: When a syllable or word has 2 vowels together, the first vowel is usually long (says its name) and the second is silent.
- Rule #3: A vowel by itself has a long sound (says its name): Examples: A, I
- Rule #4: Typically, in a one syllable word, if there is a /y/ at the end of the word and there is no vowel, the /y/ makes the long /i/ sound. Examples: cry, fly, fry, my, sly, try
- Rule #5: Typically, in a two syllable word, if there is a /y/ at the end of the word, the /y/ makes the long /e/ sound. Examples: baby, city, happy, merry, mommy
- Rule #6: When there is only one vowel and it comes at the end of a syllable or word, it usually has a long sound. Examples: be, he, me, we, she, no, go, so, va-ca-tion, si-ren
- Rule #7: “e” at the end of a short word (one syllable) is usually long (says its name). Examples: be, he, me, she, we
- Rule #8: “o” at the end of a short word (one syllable) is usually long (says its name). Examples: no, go, so
- Rule #9: When /c/ is followed by /e/, /i/, or /y/, the /c/ sounds like /s/. Examples: cent, cycle, city, circus, face, ice, mice, nice, race
- Rule #10: When /c/ is followed by any other letter than /e/, /i/, or /y/, the /c/ usually sounds like /k/. Examples: carrot, cat, cup
- Rule #11: When /g/ is followed by /e/, /i/, or /y/, the /g/ sounds like /j/ (juh). Examples: age, cage, fridge, fudge, garage, gem, giraffe, gym, orange, page
- Rule #12: When /g/ is followed by any other letter than /e/, /i/, or /y/, the /g/ usually sounds like /g/. Examples: gate, gorilla, game, gum, rugby
- Rule #13: When deciding whether to use /c/ or /k/ for a /k/ sound before a vowel, /c/ comes before /a/, /o/, /u/ and /k/ comes before /i/, /e/, /y/. Examples: cat, cork, cup and kit, kite, keep
- Rule #14: When deciding whether to use /ck/ /k/ or /c/ when you hear the /k/ sound at the end of a word, use /ck/ when the /k/ sound immediately follows a short vowel sound. Examples: pack, bucket, duck. Use /k/ if the /k/ sound is preceded by a long vowel or consonant. Examples: bark, hawk, milk, peek, soak. Finally, in multisyllable words ending with the /k/ sound, it is frequently spelled with /c/. Examples: frantic, panic