

## Table of Contents

When the lesson presents “sentence work”, please ask your student to read the entire sentence at least once before attempting to make changes to the targeted root word. In the beginning, you may need to show your student how to **actually write** the changed root word on the blank in the sentence. There are also exercises where the student is asked to write the word which is produced by adding a prefix or suffix. The student will want to “hook” the prefix or suffix to the word printed in the book. However, recent research has shown the importance to long-term memory of actually writing a word, forming the letters with a pencil on paper. This same advice holds true for writing the rule which applies to the words he has just practiced modifying. Students who write the new word forms and governing rules are more likely to learn them, providing a lifetime of competency. The blank pages beside each lesson are provided as additional practice space.

Explanations and rules for adding prefixes and suffixes .....	p. 2-5
Words ending <b>vowel + y</b> .....	p.6-8
Add <b>ing</b> to <b>any</b> word ending in <b>y</b> .....	p.9-10
Words ending <b>consonant + y</b> .....	p.11-15
Practice with words ending in <b>y</b> .....	p.16-29
<b>Double the final consonant</b> of a <b>short vowel</b> word.....	p.30-49
Two syllable short vowel words .....	p.44-50
Mixed short vowel and words ending in <b>y</b> .....	p.51-52
When words end with <b>e</b> replace one vowel with another vowel.....	p.53-69
Mixed <b>short vowel</b> , words ending with <b>y</b> , and ending with <b>e</b> .....	p.70-78
Work with <b>ible</b> .....	pages 73, 76, 79
Practice of mastery with prefix and suffix rules.....	p.80-95
Parting details: capful <u>s</u> , brother <u>s</u> -in-law, Williams’ play, and panicked.....	p.96
Assessment of mastery.....	97, 98, 100



Name \_\_\_\_\_

English is a bit like a porcupine. A porcupine has many quills but they all trace back to one small body. English has thousands of words but they trace back to a much smaller group of root words. **We** create the words by hooking on prefixes and suffixes.

How many quills does a porcupine have? \_\_\_\_\_

We see added prefixes more often than we realize.

Look: **away**. **A** is a prefix hooked onto **way**; **away** means on the way.

The mother porcupine is **away** from home, on her way to the river.

Look: **aware**. **A** is a prefix hooked onto **ware**, from the word **wary**, which means to be watchful, to notice what is happening.

The porcupine was **unaware** that a big wind had disturbed the roof on her nest and scared her babies. Now, the wind has blown the nest wildly **askew** and it is sitting quite crooked. Her babies may fall through a hole.

**askew**, say as **ku**. **A** is a prefix hooked onto to skew. What do you suppose **askew** means: **slanted** or **skillful**? The root word **skew** means: to twist, to slant to one side.

Look: **astray**. **A** is a prefix hooked to **stray**: **astray** means to wander outside of where one is supposed to be, to wander **away**.

One baby porcupine has gone **astray** and is lost in the tall weeds.

Do you see how we use about **30 prefixes** and **30 suffixes** to build **thousands** of words from a small group of root words? **yes no maybe**

Answers: maybe as many as 30,000 quills; askew means crooked.

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Trees have roots.  
Do words have roots?

yes no maybe probably

Name \_\_\_\_\_.

Prefixes and suffixes are added to root words. Look at the **root word**: **escape** → **escapes**, **escaped**, **escaping**, **escapee**, **escapable**, **inescapable**, **inescapably**. The word **escape** is over seven hundred years old. These days, we wear coats and jackets but in those long ago days, people wore **capes**. The word **escape** means to leave in such a rush, that one's **cape** got left behind.

Is it easier to eat cereal with a spoon or a knife? spoon knife

Is it faster to travel ten miles in a car or to walk? car walk

Spoons and cars are tools. Using the best tools to do a job is smart; it saves time and energy. Knowing how to add prefixes and suffixes to words is a tool that can save me time and energy.


Letter blocks added to the start of a word are called prefixes. Prefixes are easy; just hook them onto the front. I see that this rule applies even when the root word begins with the last letter of the prefix:

un → **un**needed    re → **re**enter    dis → **dis**satisfy    il → **il**legal

Letter blocks added at the end of a word are called suffixes:

s → eyes, ed → washed, ing → asking, y → snowy, ly → slowly

Look: help    helper    help**less**    Most of the time, I just hook  
helps    help**ful**    help**lessness** on the suffix. However,  
help**ed**    help**fully**    there are words that need a change  
help**ing**    unhelp**ful**    before a suffix can be added. →

 I. Adding a suffix to a word that ends with **y**:

**Rule 1)** Add **ing** to any **y** word, **no change**: obeying, buying / worrying

**Rule 2)** Add **any** ending to **vowel + y**; **no change**: obeys, obeyed, buys, buyer

**Rule 3)** When words end with **consonant + y**: **no change** for **ing**, but all other endings require changing **y to i**: carry, carrying, carries, carried, carrier

worry, worrying, worries, worried, worried, worriedly, worrisome


**And** when **y** changes to **i**, **s** **always** becomes **es**: puppy, puppies; fly, flies

**Rule 4)** **Three other times** to use **es**: 😊 When words end with an **s-like sound letters** **s, sh, ch, x, or z**: buses, wishes, matches, boxes, buzzes.

😊😊 When words end in **long o**: hero, heroes echo, echoes  
Exceptions: some musical terms and some round things: solos, cameos.

😊😊😊 When words end in **f** that changes to **v**: half, halves wolf, wolves

No changes for other endings: wished, wishing, echoed, echoing, loafed, loafing

 II. Adding a suffix to a short vowel word, like **hop**

**Remember the Long Vowel Rule**: a vowel can reach back around **one** consonant to make the preceding vowel “say its name,” as in hide, hiding; notice: hidden.

Long: hope, hoped, hoping, hopes, hopeful, hopefully; **s** and **f** are consonants.

**In contrast**: **short vowel**: hop, hopped, hopping, hops; **s** is a consonant.

**Rule 5)** Adding a suffix to a short vowel word; **double the final consonant** to **protect the short vowel** **when** the suffix starts with a **vowel**: ed, ing, er, est, able

stop, stopped, stopping, stops, **s** is a consonant **no need to double p**

sad, sadder, saddest, sadly, sadness, **l** and **n** are consonants, **do not double d**

 III. Adding a suffix to words ending with **e**:

**Rule 6)** *Replace* one vowel with another vowel: escape, escapes, escaped, escaping, inescapable, inescapably; use, uses, used, using, usable, useful – **f** is not a vowel,

keep final **e**. 🛎 Remember **ce** can only change to **ci**: trace, tracing, traceable; **ge** can only change to **gi**: change, changing, changeable ©Maisner

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

 Practice adding suffixes to words that end with **y**:

I can name all of the vowels: **Aa, Ee, Ii, Oo, Uu, Yy**

I can make the changes to the root word and write it on the line:

1) obey (s) obeys 4) buy (s) \_\_\_\_\_

2) obey (ed) \_\_\_\_\_ 5) buy (er) \_\_\_\_\_

3) obey (ing) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) buy (ing) \_\_\_\_\_

**What rule applies?** \_\_\_\_\_

Rule: When a word ends with a **vowel + y**, add **any** ending.

☺ The small pictures have no significance; merely make it easier to find your place.

1) stay (s) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) annoy (s) \_\_\_\_\_

2) stay (ed) \_\_\_\_\_ 5) annoy (ed) \_\_\_\_\_

3) stay (ing) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) annoy (ing) \_\_\_\_\_

**What rule applies?** \_\_\_\_\_



1) enjoy (ing) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) lay (er) \_\_\_\_\_

2) pay (s) \_\_\_\_\_ 5) delay (ing) \_\_\_\_\_

3) play (ed) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) replay (ed) \_\_\_\_\_

**What rule applies?** \_\_\_\_\_



1) pray (ed) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) display (ed) \_\_\_\_\_

2) survey (s) \_\_\_\_\_ 5) array (ing) \_\_\_\_\_

Survey: make a study or to look closely. Array: to arrange or to be dressed in a special way.

3) convey (ed) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) stray (ed) \_\_\_\_\_

Convey: carry, to transport in order to deliver, communicate: The word stop **conveys** the meaning: do not move. A bus can **convey** more passengers than a car.

Please ask the student to write the full word and the rule. **Ans: Rule: When a word ends with vowel + y, add any ending, just do it.** Top set: obeys, obeyed, obeying, buys, buyer, buying; 2<sup>nd</sup> set: stays, stayed, staying, annoys, annoyed, annoying; 3<sup>rd</sup> set: enjoying, pays, played, layer, delaying, replayed; 4<sup>th</sup>: prayed, surveys, conveyed, displayed, arraying, strayed. ©Mary Maisner

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

 Practice adding suffixes to words that end with **y**:

I know all of the vowels: \_\_\_\_\_

Watch me make the changes to the root word and write it on the line:

1) buy (s) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) pay (s) \_\_\_\_\_

2) say (s) \_\_\_\_\_ 5) play(s) \_\_\_\_\_

3) stay (s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) delay (s) \_\_\_\_\_

What rule applies? \_\_\_\_\_



1) pray (s) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) annoy (s) \_\_\_\_\_

2) stay (ed) \_\_\_\_\_ 5) destroy (ed) \_\_\_\_\_

3) stray (ing) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) destroy (ing) \_\_\_\_\_

What rule applies? \_\_\_\_\_



1) joy (s) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) tray (s) \_\_\_\_\_

2) toy (s) \_\_\_\_\_ 5) betray (ed) \_\_\_\_\_  
Betray: reveal to an enemy, violate a trust.

3) boy (s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) betray (ing) \_\_\_\_\_

What rule applies? \_\_\_\_\_



1) prey (ed) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) display (ing) \_\_\_\_\_

Prey: to hunt; a lion is a predator that **preys** on hyenas.

2) prey (s) \_\_\_\_\_ 5) array (ed) \_\_\_\_\_  
The child **arrayed** the building blocks in a circle.

3) prey (ing) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) say (ing) \_\_\_\_\_

What rule applies? \_\_\_\_\_

**Ans: Rule:** When a vowel comes before **y**, add **any ending, just do it**. **Top set:** buys, says, stays, pays, plays, delays; **2<sup>nd</sup>:** prays, stayed, straying, annoys, destroyed, destroying; **3<sup>rd</sup>:** joys, toys, boys, trays, betrayed, betraying; **4<sup>th</sup>:** preyed, preys, preying, displaying, arrayed, saying.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The vowels are

\_\_\_\_\_

I know how to add suffixes to words that end in **vowel + y**; just do it.

I will read the entire sentence **before** I decide how to adjust the root word.

1) Three \_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_ their trip to Australia.  
boy enjoy

2) The boys were lucky to see a lionfish that was hunting in the coral reef.  
The lionfish was \_\_\_\_\_ upon tiny fish. prey

3) The lionfish was \_\_\_\_\_ its long venomous spikes to corner its victims but it was not stinging its prey. employ

4) The lionfish was \_\_\_\_\_ when its smaller cousin, called a fuzzy dwarf, darted across its path. annoy

5) The boys \_\_\_\_\_ a few feet away as the fuzzy dwarf and the twelve-inch lionfish battled over a tiny captured shrimp. stay

6) Luckily, the tiny cornered shrimp escaped into a nearby water cave while the lionfish was \_\_\_\_\_ by the battle. delay

7) One of the boys said, "My dad warned me not to pick up a lionfish feather if we see one on the beach. The venom is not \_\_\_\_\_ even after the feather falls off the fish." destroy

Answers: 1) boys & enjoying, 2) preying, 3) employing, 4) annoyed, 5) stayed, 6) delayed, 7) destroyed.