Where Did E Go?

Sort words by what happens to the final silent e.

RF.4-5.3.f "Use knowledge of spelling rules, syllable types, morphology, and etymology to Write (encode) words with accuracy and automaticity."

NAME _____ DATE _____

DROP THE E

When a base word ends in a silent e, drop the e before adding -ing.

bake + ing = baking

KEEP THE E

When a base word ends in a silent e, keep the e before adding a suffix that starts with a consonant, such as -ful or -less.

care + ful = careful

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle DROP or KEEP for each pair; for Part 2, choose two items and explain how you knew what happened to the final e.

1.	ride + ing	DROP KEEP
2.	shine + ing	DROP KEEP
3.	hope + less	DROP KEEP
4.	skate + ing	DROP KEEP
5.	move + ment	DROP KEEP
6.	use + ful	DROP KEEP
7.	hike + ing	DROP KEEP
8.	love + less	DROP KEEP

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

For Part 3, write one new base word and suffix that belong in DROP and one that belong in KEEP, then spell each completed word.

DROP _____

KEEP _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one base word ending in a silent e, add both -ing and -less to it, and spell both completed words.

ANSWER KEY # Where Did E Go?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	ride + ing	**DROP**	Drop the final e to spell riding.
2	shine + ing	**DROP**	Drop the final e to spell shining.
3	hope + less	**KEEP**	Keep the final e to spell hopeless.
4	skate + ing	**DROP**	Drop the final e to spell skating.
5	move + ment	**KEEP**	Keep the final e to spell movement.
6	use + ful	**KEEP**	Keep the final e to spell useful.
7	hike + ing	**DROP**	Drop the final e to spell hiking.
8	love + less	**KEEP**	Keep the final e to spell loveless.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **DROP**: dance + ing = dancing
- **KEEP**: peace + ful = peaceful

Challenge: shape + ing = shaping; shape + less = shapeless

For Part 2, accept two numbered items with explanations tied to the suffix's first letter. For example, item 1 drops the e because -ing starts with a vowel, while item 5 keeps the e because -ment starts with a consonant.