The Final E

Sort words by what happens when a suffix is added.

4.2.SE.2 "Students will use structural analysis to correctly spell the following parts of words: • contractions • abbreviations • common spelling rules related to adding prefixes and suffixes"

NAME _____ DATE _____

DROP THE E

When a suffix begins with a vowel, you usually drop the final silent e. For example, name + ed becomes named.

name + ed = named

KEEP THE E

When a suffix begins with a consonant, you usually keep the final silent e. For example, rude + ly becomes rudely.

rude + ly = rudely

1 SORT

8 items

For each word and suffix, circle DROP or KEEP to show what happens to the final e; then choose two items, write the new words, and explain how you knew.

1.	bake + ing	DROP KEEP
2.	smile + ing	DROP KEEP
3.	care + ful	DROP KEEP
4.	dance + ing	DROP KEEP
5.	use + less	DROP KEEP
6.	move + ment	DROP KEEP
7.	hope + ing	DROP KEEP
8.	race + ing	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

Write one new base word and suffix that make you DROP the final e, and one that make you KEEP it. Spell both new words.

DROP _____

KEEP _____

CHALLENGE

Add -ing and -less to shape. Write both new words and explain what happens to the final e each time.

ANSWER KEY

The Final E

GRADE 4 · 4.2.SE.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	bake + ing	**DROP**	Drop the final e before -ing to spell baking.
2	smile + ing	**DROP**	Drop the final e before -ing to spell smiling.
3	care + ful	**KEEP**	Keep the final e before -ful to spell careful.
4	dance + ing	**DROP**	Drop the final e before -ing to spell dancing.
5	use + less	**KEEP**	Keep the final e before -less to spell useless.
6	move + ment	**KEEP**	Keep the final e before -ment to spell movement.
7	hope + ing	**DROP**	Drop the final e before -ing to spell hoping.
8	race + ing	**DROP**	Drop the final e before -ing to spell racing.

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**: wave + ed = waved
- **KEEP**: cute + ness = cuteness

Challenge: shape + ing = shaping: drop the e. shape + less = shapeless: keep the e.

For the two explanations, accept a correctly spelled new word and a reason based on the first letter of its suffix. For example, baking drops the e because -ing begins with a vowel.