The Y Switch

Sort nouns by what happens to y.

3.2.SE.3 "Students will use structural analysis to correctly spell the following parts of words: • common prefixes • common suffixes • common spelling rules related to adding prefixes and suffixes (e.g., changing y to i, doubling a consonant)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

CHANGE Y TO I

If a noun ends with a consonant and y, change y to i and add -es to mean more than one.

cherry → cherries

KEEP Y

If a noun ends with a vowel and y, keep y and add -s to mean more than one.

tray → trays

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CHANGE or KEEP for each noun to show how to make it mean more than one, then choose two numbered nouns and explain how the letter before y helped you decide.

1.	baby	CHANGE KEEP
2.	key	CHANGE KEEP
3.	toy	CHANGE KEEP
4.	city	CHANGE KEEP
5.	family	CHANGE KEEP
6.	day	CHANGE KEEP
7.	story	CHANGE KEEP
8.	boy	CHANGE 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 noun for each category, and spell each noun to mean more than one.

CHANGE

KEEP

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence using the plurals of two new nouns, one from each category; underline both plural nouns.

ANSWER KEY

The Y Switch

GRADE 3 · 3.2.SE.3

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	baby	**CHANGE**	A consonant comes before y: baby → babies.
2	key	**KEEP**	A vowel comes before y: key → keys.
3	toy	**KEEP**	A vowel comes before y: toy → toys.
4	city	**CHANGE**	A consonant comes before y: city → cities.
5	family	**CHANGE**	A consonant comes before y: family → families.
6	day	**KEEP**	A vowel comes before y: day → days.
7	story	**CHANGE**	A consonant comes before y: story → stories.
8	boy	**KEEP**	A vowel comes before y: boy → boys.

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)

- **CHANGE**: berry → berries
- **KEEP**: valley → valleys

Challenge: The puppies saw the monkeys.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the letter before y and tell whether it is a vowel or a consonant. The challenge sample uses puppies for CHANGE and monkeys for KEEP.