The E Decision

Build each word, then sort its spelling move.

5.2.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 base word ends in a silent e, you usually drop the e before a suffix that starts with a vowel.

shape + ed = shaped

KEEP THE E

When a base word ends in a silent e, you usually keep the e before a suffix that starts with a consonant.

polite + ness = politeness

1 SORT

8 items

Complete each word, then circle DROP or KEEP to show what happened to the base word's final e.

1. bake + er = _____ DROP KEEP
2. hike + ing = _____ DROP KEEP
3. care + ful = _____ DROP KEEP
4. save + ing = _____ DROP KEEP
5. safe + ly = _____ DROP KEEP
6. use + ful = _____ DROP KEEP
7. ride + ing = _____ DROP KEEP
8. close + ing = _____ DROP KEEP

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one DROP item and one KEEP item, and explain how each suffix helped you decide.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new base word and suffix pair for each category, then spell both new words. Use base words that are not on this page.

DROP _____

KEEP _____

CHALLENGE

Use the base word brave with two different suffixes. Choose one suffix that makes you drop the e and one that makes you keep it, then write both completed words.

ANSWER KEY

The E Decision

GRADE 5 · 5.2.SE.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	bake + er = _____	**DROP**	Baker drops the final e before er.
2	hike + ing = _____	**DROP**	Hiking drops the final e before ing.
3	care + ful = _____	**KEEP**	Careful keeps the final e before ful.
4	save + ing = _____	**DROP**	Saving drops the final e before ing.
5	safe + ly = _____	**KEEP**	Safely keeps the final e before ly.
6	use + ful = _____	**KEEP**	Useful keeps the final e before ful.
7	ride + ing = _____	**DROP**	Riding drops the final e before ing.
8	close + ing = _____	**DROP**	Closing drops the final e before ing.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one DROP item and one KEEP item, and explain how each suffix helped you decide. 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 + ing = waving
- **KEEP**: home + less = homeless

Challenge: brave + ing = braving; brave + ly = bravely

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the suffix's first letter and connect it to dropping or keeping the final e. The completed sort words are baker, hiking, careful, saving, safely, useful, riding, and closing.