Suffix Switch

Spot when a suffix changes the base word.

4.2.A.v "decoding words using knowledge of suffixes, including how they can change base words such as dropping e, changing y to i, and doubling final consonants; and"

NAME _____ DATE _____

SPELLING STAYS

The base word keeps all of its letters when you add the suffix.

bright + ness = brightness

SPELLING CHANGES

The base word spelling changes when you add the suffix. You may drop a final e, change y to i, or double a final consonant.

lazy + est = laziest

1 SORT

8 items

Use each base and suffix, including the spelling change, to decode and blend the resulting whole word; read it to a teacher or partner. For each word equation, circle KEEP or CHANGE, then pick two items and explain which letters stayed the same or changed and why.

1.	hope + ing = hoping	KEEP CHANGE
2.	sunny + er = sunnier	KEEP CHANGE
3.	jump + ed = jumped	KEEP CHANGE
4.	plan + ing = planning	KEEP CHANGE
5.	neat + ly = neatly	KEEP CHANGE
6.	care + less = careless	KEEP CHANGE
7.	bake + ed = baked	KEEP CHANGE
8.	big + er = bigger	KEEP CHANGE

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 word equation for KEEP and one new word equation for CHANGE. Decode and read your new whole words to a teacher or partner.

KEEP _____

CHANGE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a base word that needs a spelling change. Add two different suffixes to make two correct words. Decode and read your new whole words to a teacher or partner.

ANSWER KEY # Suffix Switch

GRADE 4 · TEKS 4.2.A.v

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	hope + ing = hoping	**CHANGE**	The final e is dropped before adding -ing.
2	sunny + er = sunnier	**CHANGE**	The y changes to i before adding -er.
3	jump + ed = jumped	**KEEP**	The spelling of jump stays the same before adding -ed.
4	plan + ing = planning	**CHANGE**	The final n is doubled before adding -ing.
5	neat + ly = neatly	**KEEP**	The spelling of neat stays the same before adding -ly.
6	care + less = careless	**KEEP**	The final e stays when -less is added.
7	bake + ed = baked	**CHANGE**	The final e is dropped before adding -ed.
8	big + er = bigger	**CHANGE**	The final g is doubled before adding -er.

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)

- **KEEP**: soft + ness = softness
- **CHANGE**: carry + ed = carried

Challenge: race + ing = racing; race + ed = raced

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Answers: 1 CHANGE, 2 CHANGE, 3 KEEP, 4 CHANGE, 5 KEEP, 6 KEEP, 7 CHANGE, 8 CHANGE. In Part 2, accept explanations that correctly identify unchanged spelling, dropping e, changing y to i, or doubling a final consonant. Check actual whole-word reading accuracy or self-correction separately from sorting and spelling. Provide help after the learner's decoding attempt. Accept natural pronunciation and reasonable dialect variation; assess the stated structural pattern without demanding unnatural isolated sounds.