# The E Switch

Sort verbs by what happens to their final e when you add -ing.

**4.RF.3.d** "Apply spelling patterns and rules to spell words accurately."

NAME _____ DATE _____

**DROP THE E**

Most verbs that end in one silent e drop that e before adding -ing. A few verbs are exceptions.

bake → baking

**KEEP THE E**

Verbs that end in -ee keep both e's before adding -ing.

see → seeing

## 1 SORT

8 items

Circle DROP or KEEP for each verb, then choose two verbs and explain how you knew where each belonged.

1. ride — DROP KEEP
2. hope — DROP KEEP
3. agree — DROP KEEP
4. smile — DROP KEEP
5. free — DROP KEEP
6. flee — DROP KEEP
7. dance — DROP KEEP
8. slide — 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 verb for DROP and one for KEEP, then write each verb with -ing; do not use a verb from the sort or rule box.

**DROP** _____

**KEEP** _____

**CHALLENGE**

Write the -ing forms of die and dye, then explain why dye keeps its e.

**ANSWER KEY**

# The E Switch



## PART 1 · SORT

| # | ITEM | CATEGORY | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | ride | **DROP** | Ride drops its final silent e: riding. |
| 2 | hope | **DROP** | Hope drops its final silent e: hoping. |
| 3 | agree | **KEEP** | Agree keeps both e's: agreeing. |
| 4 | smile | **DROP** | Smile drops its final silent e: smiling. |
| 5 | free | **KEEP** | Free keeps both e's: freeing. |
| 6 | flee | **KEEP** | Flee keeps both e's: fleeing. |
| 7 | dance | **DROP** | Dance drops its final silent e: dancing. |
| 8 | slide | **DROP** | Slide drops its final silent e: sliding. |

## 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**: make → making
- **KEEP**: oversee → overseeing

**Challenge:** die → dying; dye → dyeing. Dye keeps its e so dyeing, which means coloring something, is spelled differently from dying.

Accept other correctly spelled verbs that fit each category. For the challenge, dyeing is an exception to the usual drop-e pattern.