

Suffix Switch Sort

Watch what happens to the base word before a suffix is added.

3.2.A.vi “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 _____

BASE CHANGES

The base word changes before the suffix is added.
You may drop a final e, change y to i, or double the final consonant.

smile + ing → smiling

BASE STAYS

The base word keeps the same spelling when the suffix is added.

play + ed → played

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle CHANGE or KEEP for each word equation, then choose two items and explain how you knew.

1. bake + ing → baking

CHANGE

KEEP

2. cry + ed → cried

CHANGE

KEEP

3. help + er → helper

CHANGE

KEEP

4. plan + ed → planned

CHANGE

KEEP

5. rain + y → rainy

CHANGE

KEEP

6. slow + ly → slowly

CHANGE

KEEP

7. race + er → racer

CHANGE

KEEP

8. wish + ing → wishing

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 word equation for CHANGE and one new word equation for KEEP.

CHANGE _____

KEEP _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence with a new CHANGE word. Then tell which spelling change you used.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	bake + ing → baking	CHANGE	The final e in bake is dropped before adding -ing.
2	cry + ed → cried	CHANGE	The y in cry changes to i before adding -ed.
3	help + er → helper	KEEP	The base word help keeps the same spelling.
4	plan + ed → planned	CHANGE	The final consonant n is doubled before adding -ed.
5	rain + y → rainy	KEEP	The base word rain keeps the same spelling.
6	slow + ly → slowly	KEEP	The base word slow keeps the same spelling.
7	race + er → racer	CHANGE	The final e in race is dropped before adding -er.
8	wish + ing → wishing	KEEP	The base word wish keeps the same spelling.

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:** slide + ing → sliding
- **KEEP:** farm + er → farmer

Challenge: The puppy wagged its tail. I doubled the g in wag before adding -ed.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly name the spelling change or state that the base word stayed the same. For Part 3, accept other correct suffix examples that fit each category.