

Y Change Detectives

Sort words by what happens to the y.

3.2 "Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking--beginning reading and writing. The student develops word structure knowledge through phonological awareness, print concepts..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

Y CHANGES

When a base word ends with a consonant and y, the y often changes to i before a suffix that does not begin with i.

lazier (lazy + -er)

Y STAYS

The y stays y before a suffix that begins with i, such as -ing. It also stays y when the y follows a vowel.

staying (stay + -ing)

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle CHANGE or KEEP for each word.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. puppies (puppy + -es) | <input type="button" value="CHANGE"/> | <input type="button" value="KEEP"/> |
| 2. funniest (funny + -est) | <input type="button" value="CHANGE"/> | <input type="button" value="KEEP"/> |
| 3. playing (play + -ing) | <input type="button" value="CHANGE"/> | <input type="button" value="KEEP"/> |
| 4. cried (cry + -ed) | <input type="button" value="CHANGE"/> | <input type="button" value="KEEP"/> |
| 5. trying (try + -ing) | <input type="button" value="CHANGE"/> | <input type="button" value="KEEP"/> |
| 6. enjoyed (enjoy + -ed) | <input type="button" value="CHANGE"/> | <input type="button" value="KEEP"/> |
| 7. carried (carry + -ed) | <input type="button" value="CHANGE"/> | <input type="button" value="KEEP"/> |
| 8. toyed (toy + -ed) | <input type="button" value="CHANGE"/> | <input type="button" value="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 for CHANGE and one new word for KEEP.

CHANGE _____

KEEP _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence using one CHANGE word and one KEEP word. Underline each suffix.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	puppies (puppy + -es)	CHANGE	puppy ends with a consonant and y, so y changes to i before -es.
2	funniest (funny + -est)	CHANGE	funny ends with a consonant and y, so y changes to i before -est.
3	playing (play + -ing)	KEEP	In play, the y follows a vowel, so it stays y.
4	cried (cry + -ed)	CHANGE	cry ends with a consonant and y, so y changes to i before -ed.
5	trying (try + -ing)	KEEP	The suffix -ing begins with i, so the y stays y.
6	enjoyed (enjoy + -ed)	KEEP	In enjoy, the y follows a vowel, so it stays y.
7	carried (carry + -ed)	CHANGE	carry ends with a consonant and y, so y changes to i before -ed.
8	toyed (toy + -ed)	KEEP	In toy, the y follows a vowel, so it stays y.

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:** messier (messy + -er)
- **KEEP:** crying (cry + -ing)

Challenge: The laziest puppy was crying.

For Part 2, answers vary. A correct explanation states that y changes to i after a consonant before a suffix that does not begin with i, or that y stays because the suffix begins with i or because y follows a vowel.