

Base Word Detectives

Spot when a suffix changes the base word's spelling.

5.2.A.iv “decoding words using advanced knowledge of the influence of prefixes and suffixes on base words; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

BASE SPELLING CHANGES

When you add a suffix, the base word's spelling changes. A final e may drop, a y may change to i, or a final consonant may double.

funnier

BASE SPELLING STAYS

When you add a suffix, the base word's spelling stays the same. Read the base word, then read the suffix.

graceful

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each word, circle CHANGES if the suffix changes the base word's spelling or STAYS if it does not.

- | | | |
|-------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. writable | <input type="button" value="CHANGES"/> | <input type="button" value="STAYS"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 2. kindness | <input type="button" value="CHANGES"/> | <input type="button" value="STAYS"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 3. carried | <input type="button" value="CHANGES"/> | <input type="button" value="STAYS"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 4. swimmer | <input type="button" value="CHANGES"/> | <input type="button" value="STAYS"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 5. slowly | <input type="button" value="CHANGES"/> | <input type="button" value="STAYS"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 6. fearful | <input type="button" value="CHANGES"/> | <input type="button" value="STAYS"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 7. biggest | <input type="button" value="CHANGES"/> | <input type="button" value="STAYS"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 8. payment | <input type="button" value="CHANGES"/> | <input type="button" value="STAYS"/> |
| <hr/> | | |

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 CHANGES and one new word for STAYS.

CHANGES _____

STAYS _____

CHALLENGE

Write a word with both a prefix and a suffix. Name the prefix, base word, and suffix, then explain whether the suffix changes the base word's spelling.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	writable	CHANGES	write + -able drops the final e.
2	kindness	STAYS	kind + -ness keeps the spelling of kind.
3	carried	CHANGES	carry + -ed changes y to i.
4	swimmer	CHANGES	swim + -er doubles the final m.
5	slowly	STAYS	slow + -ly keeps the spelling of slow.
6	fearful	STAYS	fear + -ful keeps the spelling of fear.
7	biggest	CHANGES	big + -est doubles the final g.
8	payment	STAYS	pay + -ment keeps the spelling of pay.

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)

- **CHANGES:** movement
- **STAYS:** playful

Challenge: Unhappily has prefix un-, base happy, and suffix -ly. The suffix changes the y in happy to i.

Part 2 responses should identify the base word and suffix and accurately describe the spelling change or lack of change. Part 3 sample words: movement is move + -ment, with the final e dropped, and playful is play + -ful, with the base spelling unchanged.