

Silent E Switch

Sort words by what happens to the final e.

4.FFW "The student will print legibly in manuscript and cursive while applying grade level word knowledge to spell words correctly. Handwriting Maintain legible printing. Maintain legible cursive. Sign his/her first and last name..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

DROP THE FINAL E

Many words drop the final silent e when a suffix starts with a vowel letter. Example: smile + ing = smiling.

smile + ing = smiling

KEEP THE FINAL E

Many words keep the final silent e when a suffix starts with a consonant letter. Example: home + less = homeless.

home + less = homeless

1 SORT

8 items

Part 1: Circle DROP or KEEP for each word equation; Part 2: Pick two items and explain whether the suffix starts with a vowel letter or a consonant letter and what happened to the final e.

1. hike + ing = hiking

DROP

KEEP

2. amaze + ing = amazing

DROP

KEEP

3. care + ful = careful

DROP

KEEP

4. skate + er = skater

DROP

KEEP

5. hope + less = hopeless

DROP

KEEP

6. pale + ness = paleness

DROP

KEEP

7. write + ing = writing

DROP

KEEP

8. use + less = useless

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

DROP _____

KEEP _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses a correctly spelled word that drops the final e and a correctly spelled word that keeps the final e.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	hike + ing = hiking	DROP	The suffix -ing starts with a vowel letter, so hike drops e.
2	amaze + ing = amazing	DROP	The suffix -ing starts with a vowel letter, so amaze drops e.
3	care + ful = careful	KEEP	The suffix -ful starts with a consonant letter, so care keeps e.
4	skate + er = skater	DROP	The suffix -er starts with a vowel letter, so skate drops e.
5	hope + less = hopeless	KEEP	The suffix -less starts with a consonant letter, so hope keeps e.
6	pale + ness = paleness	KEEP	The suffix -ness starts with a consonant letter, so pale keeps e.
7	write + ing = writing	DROP	The suffix -ing starts with a vowel letter, so write drops e.
8	use + less = useless	KEEP	The suffix -less starts with a consonant letter, so use keeps e.

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:** slide + ing = sliding
- **KEEP:** grace + ful = graceful

Challenge: The rider felt hopeful before the race.

For Part 2, students should name the suffix and tell whether it starts with a vowel letter or consonant letter. Accept different correctly spelled Part 3 examples that follow the pattern.