**Why do some words have double consonants while others have only one?**

Here are some basic rules for spelling -ED and -ING words:

**Rule 1: Words ending with a Consonant-Vowel-Consonant Pattern**  
[(Review Consonants and Vowels)](http://a4esl.org/q/h/9807/km-doubles.html" \l "CVC)  
**One-syllable words:**  
*ED* = If the word ends in a CVC pattern, it gets a double consonant + *ED*. \* note  
*ING* = If the word ends in a CVC pattern, it gets a double consonant + *ING*. \* note

**Examples:**

 *ED* = RUB > rubbed, STOP > stopped

 *ING* = HOP > hopping, SIT > sitting

|  |
| --- |
| \*note: Words ending in w,x,y,z do not follow this rule, simply add *ED,*or*ING* *Examples: snow > snowed, box > boxing, play > playing* |

**Two-syllable words:**  
*ED* = If the **stress** is on the first syllable, the word only gets one consonant + *ED*.  
*ING* = If the **stress** is on the first syllable, the word only gets one consonant + *ING*.

**Examples:**

 **vis**it > visited, **o**pen > opened

 **hap**pen > happening, **en**ter > entering

*ED* = If the **stress** is on the second syllable, the word gets a double consonant + *ED*.  
*ING* = If the **stress**is on the second syllable, the word gets a double consonant + *ING*.

**Examples:**

 re**fer** > referred, ad**mit** > admitted

 be**gin** > beginning, per**mit** > permitting

|  |
| --- |
| **Consonants = b, c, d, f, g, h, etc.** **Vowels = a, e, i, o, u** |

[*Take me to the two-syllable word practice page...*](http://a4esl.org/q/h/9807/km-ed-ing3.html)

**Rule 2: Words ending in *E***  
*ED* = If the word ends in E, simply add *ED*  
*ING* = If the word ends in *E*, drop the *E*, add *ING*

**Examples:**

 *ED* = smile > smiled, fine > fined

 *ING* = dance > dancing, skate > skating

**Rule 3: Words ending in *Y***  
*Consonant + Y*

*ED* = If the word ends in Y, and has a consonant before it, change the *Y* to *I* and add *ED.*  
*ING* = If the word ends in Y, and has a consonant before it, simply add *ING.*

**Examples:**

 *ED* = study > studied, marry > married

 *ING* = carry > carrying, reply > replying

*Vowel + Y*

*ED* = If the word ends in Y, and has a vowel before it, simply add *ED.*  
*ING* = If the word ends in Y, and has a vowel before it, simply add *ING.*

**Examples:**

 *ED* = play > played, stay > stayed

 *ING* = enjoy > enjoying, stray > straying

**Rule 4: Other words...**  
*words ending in two vowels + a consonant*  
*ED* = If the word ends in two vowels + a consonant, simply add *ED.*  
*ING* = If the word ends in two vowels + a consonant, simply add *ING.*

**Examples:**

 *ED* = dream > dreamed, rain > rained

 *ING* = need > needing, beep > beeping

*words ending in a double consonant:*  
*ED* = If the word ends in a double consonant, simply add *ED.*  
*ING* = If the word ends in a double consonant, simply add *ING.*

**Examples:**

 *ED* = park > parked, earn > earned

 *ING* = need > needing, laugh > laughing

Those were some basic rules for spelling *ED* and *ING* words, but remember, there are ALWAYS exceptions to every rule...Good Luck!

Copyright (C) 1998 by [Kaye Mastin Mallory](http://english-zone.com/)   
This quiz is part of the [HTML-Only Self-Study Quizzes](http://a4esl.org/q/h/) which is part of [Activities for ESL Students](http://a4esl.org/), a project by [The Internet TESL Journal](http://iteslj.org/).

**9**