

# LESSON 16:

## ADDING VOWEL SUFFIXES TO CVC AND SILENT E BASE WORDS

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**Host:** In this lesson, we're going to learn about base words that end in a consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) or a silent *e* pattern and how they change when a vowel suffix is added.

For example, when the vowel suffix *-er* is added to the word *big*, the final *g* is doubled, and the word becomes *bigger*. When the vowel suffix *-ing* is added to the word *make*, the silent *e* is dropped and the word becomes *making*.

**Teacher:** Today we're going to learn about vowel suffixes. Vowel suffixes are simply suffixes that begin with a vowel, such as *-ed*, *-es*, *-ing*, *-er*, *-y*, *-en*, *-est*, *-able*. Remember, a suffix is added to the end of a base word.

When vowel suffixes are added to some base words, the base word changes. Before we learn how to read and spell those words, let's practice identifying vowel suffixes. A vowel suffix begins with a vowel. Please read this word and tell me the base word and suffix.

Yes, the base word is *twist*, and the suffix is *-ing*. The suffix *-ing* begins with a vowel, so it is a vowel suffix. Please read the next word and tell me the base word and suffix.

Good, the base word is *late* and the suffix is *-ly*. The suffix *-ly* begins with a consonant, so it is a consonant suffix.

Let's read some more words and decide whether they have a vowel or consonant suffix. Please tell me the base, suffix, and then the whole word. The first word is *selfish*.

Right: *self*, *-ish*, *selfish*. Does the suffix begin with a vowel or a consonant?

Correct, it begins with a vowel, *i*. *-ish* is a vowel suffix. The next word is *fishy*.

*Fish*, *-y*, *fishy*. Does *fishy* have a vowel or consonant suffix?

Yes, that's right; it has a vowel suffix because the suffix is -y. We've learned that sometimes y can be a consonant and sometimes a vowel. When y is a suffix, it is a vowel.

Let's practice reading and writing words with vowel suffixes. When you see that a word has a vowel suffix, the letters just before the suffix tell you how to say the base word. A double consonant before the suffix means the vowel in the base word is short.

Let's look at this word. There's a double *p* just before suffix -*ing*. That means the *o* in the base word is short, so the base word is *drop*: *drop*, -*ing*, *dropping*. Repeat, please.

Good: *drop*, -*ing*, *dropping*. Let's look at the next word. Is there a double consonant before the suffix?

Yes, there are two *d*'s, so the vowel is short. What is the base word?

Right, *nod*. Read the base word and suffix, and then put them together to read the whole word.

Good job: *nod*, *ed*, *nodded*. How about this word? Is there a double consonant or single consonant?

Right, double consonant. What sound does the vowel make?

Yes, / i /. Say the base word, suffix, and the whole word.

Correct: *fit*, -*est*, *fittest*. Read the next word, please.

You said /transmited/. Does that sound right?

Let's look at this word again. Is there a single or double consonant before the suffix?

Right, double. So what sound does the *i* make?

Right, since the consonant is doubled, that means the *i* makes the short sound, / i /. Now, say the base word, the suffix, and the whole word.

Nice work: *transmit*, -*ed*, *transmitted*.

Now we'll take a look at words with a single consonant and a vowel suffix. A single consonant before a vowel suffix means that the vowel in the base word is long.

In this word, there is a single consonant, *v*, in front of the suffix, so the vowel in the base word is long: /ā/. The base word is *brave*: *brave*, -*est*, *bravest*. Repeat, please.

Good: *brave*, *-est*, *bravest*. Let's look at the next word. Does a double consonant or a single consonant come before the suffix?

Correct, it's just one *t*, so it is a single consonant. Does that mean the vowel is long or short?

Yes, the vowel is long. What is the base word?

Yes, the base word is *cute*. Say the base word and suffix, and then put them together to say the whole word.

Good job! It is *cute*, *-er*, *cuter*. Let's look at the next word. Is there a double or single consonant before the suffix?

Right, single. What sound does this vowel make?

Good, it is the long *a* sound. Say the base word, suffix, and the whole word.

Nice job: *escape*, */t/*, *escaped*. What is this word?

You said */ussing/*. Does that sound right?

Let's look at this word again. Is there a double or a single consonant before the suffix?

Right, single. What is the vowel sound when it is a single consonant?

Right, long. So what sound does this vowel make?

Good, */u/*. Now, say the base word, suffix, and the whole word.

Good work: *use*, *-ing*, *using*.

**Host:** Here's a strategy designed to help students spell consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) and silent *e* base words that change when adding a vowel suffix. If the word has a vowel suffix, use the following rules:

The silent *e* rule: If the base word ends in a silent *e*, drop the *e* before adding the suffix.

The doubling rule: If the base word ends in a CVC pattern, double the final consonant in the base word before adding the vowel suffix.

**Teacher:** To spell words that have a vowel suffix, we must use our knowledge of syllable types. Remember, if the base word ends with silent *e*, drop the *e* before adding the suffix. This is called the silent *e* rule. I will demonstrate with the word *voter*.

I say the whole word: *voter*. I say the base word and suffix. The base word is *vote*, and the suffix is *-er*.

Because *-er* is a vowel suffix and *vote* ends with a silent *e*, I drop the silent *e* to spell the whole word: *v, o, t, e, r*. I read the word I wrote: *voter*.

Let's do the same thing to spell *saving*. Here's the word in a sentence: "Eduardo was saving money to buy his dad a birthday present." Say the word.

Good, it is *saving*. Say the base word and suffix.

Good: *save, -ing*. Is *-ing* a vowel suffix?

Yes. Does *save* end with silent *e*?

Yes. Because *-ing* is a vowel suffix and *save* ends with silent *e*, how does the base word change?

Right, drop the silent *e* and add the suffix. Everyone, spell the word.

*S, a, v, i, n, g*. Now, read the word.

Good, the word is *saving*.

When the base word ends with a CVC pattern, you double the final consonant before adding the suffix. Remember, this is called the doubling rule. I will demonstrate with *humming*. Here's the word in a sentence: "Mr. Sollis was humming a song as he drove to work."

I say the whole word: *humming*. I say the base word and suffix. The base word is *hum*, and the suffix is *-ing*.

Because *-ing* is a vowel suffix and *hum* ends with a CVC pattern, I double the final consonant to spell the whole word: *h, u, m, m, i, n, g*. Read the word: *humming*.

Let's spell the next word together. The word is *permitted*. Here's the word in a sentence: "Joseph is not permitted to go to the mall without an adult." Say the word.

Say the base word and suffix.

*Permit, -ed*; is *-ed* a vowel suffix?

Yes. Because *-ed* is a vowel suffix, ask yourself, "Does *permit* end with CVC?"

Yes. Because *-ed* is a vowel suffix and *permit* ends in a CVC pattern, how does the base word change?

Good: You double the final consonant. Now, I'll spell the word: *p, e, r, m, i, t, t, e, d*. Read the word, please.

Good, *permitted*.

Now that you know how the base word changes when it ends in silent *e* or a CVC pattern, let's practice determining whether the base word should change and then apply the correct change.

I will demonstrate with the word *broken*. Here's the word in a sentence: "The children couldn't watch TV because it was broken."

I say the whole word, *broken*. I say the base word and suffix. The base word is *broke*, and the suffix is *-en*.

Because *-en* is a vowel suffix, I have to determine whether the base word should change, so I ask myself, "Does the base word end in silent *e* or a CVC pattern?"

Yes, *broke* ends in silent *e*. Because *-en* is a vowel suffix and *broke* ends in silent *e*, I follow the silent *e* rule to spell the word. How does the base word change?

Right, drop the silent *e*. Now, I'll spell the word: *b, r, o, k, e, n*. Read the word, please.

Good, *broken*.

The next word is *rubbing*. Here it is in a sentence: "You can start a fire by rubbing two sticks together, but it is slow and frustrating."

I say the whole word, *rubbing*. I say the base word and suffix: The base word is *rub*, and the suffix is *-ing*.

Because *-ing* is a vowel suffix, I have to determine whether the base word should change, so I ask myself, "Does *rub* end in a silent *e* or a CVC pattern?" Well, does it?

Yes, CVC. Because *-ing* is a vowel suffix and *rub* ends in a CVC pattern, I follow the doubling rule to spell the word. How does the base word change?

Correct: Double the final consonant. Please spell the word.

Good: *r, u, b, b, i, n, g*. Now, check the word by reading it, please.

Nice job: *rubbing*.

The next word is *rainy*. Here it is in a sentence: "It was too rainy to play outside."

Say the whole word.

Good, *rainy*. Now, say the base word and suffix.

Good! The base word is *rain*, and the suffix is *-y*.

Because *-y* is a vowel suffix, I have to determine whether the base word should change, so I ask myself, "Does *rain* end in silent *e* or a CVC pattern?" Does it?

No, *rain* doesn't end in silent *e* or CVC, so the base word doesn't change when I spell the whole word. Please spell the word *rainy*.

Good: *r, a, i, n, y*. Now, check the word by reading it.

Nice job! The word is *rainy*.

Good job using the rules we learned to spell words with vowel suffixes!

**Host:**

In this lesson, we learned about adding a vowel suffix to a base word ending in a consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) or silent *e* pattern. Remember to use the doubling rule only when the base word ends in a consonant-vowel-consonant, or CVC, pattern.