

Building Proofreading Skills in Spelling

-able and -ible Spelling Errors

Because the *-able* and *-ible* endings usually sound the same, sound is not a good clue to use when deciding which spelling to use. A good general rule to remember is that *-able* occurs more often as a suffix than *-ible*.

Rule 1: If the word ends in a consonant followed by an *e*, the *e* is dropped before adding *-ible* or *-able*. **Exceptions:** words ending in *ce* or *ge*, such as *noticeable* and *knowledgeable*.

Rule 2: If a word ends in *y*, add the suffix *-able*, not *-ible*. The *y* will change to *i* as in *reliable*, or it will drop as in *charitable*.

ACTIVITY: Each item below lists four possible spellings of a word. Read the words, and circle the letter of the correct spelling.

Sample:

- a. charartible b. charitable c. charatable d. charitible

1. a. iratible b. irritable c. iritable d. irratable
2. a. relieable b. relible c. relyable d. reliable
3. a. reducible b. reducable c. reduceable d. reduceible
4. a. legable b. leggible c. legible d. leggable
5. a. comvertable b. convertible c. convertable d. convertible
6. a. misrible b. miserable c. misrable d. misarible
7. a. respectable b. respectible c. respecable d. respecible
8. a. incredible b. increable c. incredible d. increible
9. a. imaginible b. imagenable c. imaginable d. immaginable
10. a. indisputable b. indesputible c. innisputable d. indisputible

Name _____