

# When to Double Consonants

## 1. The 1-1-1 Rule:

1 syllable

1 vowel

1 consonant

This rule helps determine if the final consonant of a word should be doubled before adding a **suffix that begins with a vowel** such as: **-ing, -ed, -er, -est.**

### A word must meet three criteria:

The word is short – one syllable (e.g., hop, run)

The word contains only one vowel (a, e, i, o, u)

The word ends with a single consonant (e.g., pin, top)

If all three conditions are met and a vowel suffix is added, the final consonant is doubled to keep the vowel sound short (soft).

For example: hop → hopping, run → running.

## 2. The Rabbit Rule (Two-Syllable Words):

For words with two syllables, if the second syllable contains a short vowel and ends with a single consonant, double the consonant. (e.g., rabbit, happy, and kitten)

## EXCEPTIONS

**A suffix that starts with a consonant** do **not** double the consonant (e.g., sad → sadness, hope → hopeful)

**Word ends in two consonants** do **not** double the consonant (e.g., jump → jumping, lift → lifted)

**Word has two vowels** do **not** double the consonant (e.g., dream → dreaming, seat → seated)