

RULES OF SPELLING 'IE' AND 'EI'

-ie and -ei can be very challenging to distinguish when spelling. People tend to confuse which should go first between letter i and e. There are some rules/ guidelines to knowing which should come first.

NOTE: There are exceptions when it comes to English language.

Rules for -ie

1. Use i before e if the c is part of a /sh/ sound as in glacier.
2. Use i before e if it appears in comparatives and superlatives as in fancier.

3. Use -ie if the vowels make a long "ee" sound as in achieve, belief, chief, relief, yield.

4. Use -cie either for /s/ or /sh/ sound. Examples are policies, science, society, efficient.

You must note that rule number four sometimes applies to -ei instead of -ie when it comes only to /s/ sound. These are the exceptions when it comes to English language. Examples are ceiling, deceive. To understand more, we will move to rules guiding -ei.

Rules for -ei

1. Except for some other rules of sounds like science or language of origin, the first

and generally known rule for spelling -ei is after the letter C, use -ei. Examples are ceiling, deceive, perceive, receipt, receive.

The only problem with this rule is that there are some unique words in English Language which are exempted from after c rule.

Examples are science, society, policies, ancient, prescient etc.

The reason is because of the rule of long "ee" and /sh/ sound for policies, glacier, society. Remember we said words that sound like that will be spelt -ie instead of ei.

But you must also learn to study your spellings as a result of words with Latin origin like 'science'

2. Use e before i when it sounds as -a- that's vowel sound /ei/ as in neighbor, weigh.

3. Use e before i when it sounds as -i- that's vowel sound /ai/ as in height.

4. Use e before i when the vowels are sounded as 'e' as in seize.

5. Use e before i when it has -ing inflections ending in e alphabet as in cueing.

6 Use e before i if the vowel makes another sound like 'ay' or 'aye' .

7. Compound words as in albeit.

There are also exceptions to this rule. But knowing them helps solve ninety percent of -ie and -ei problems.

-ie long "ee" Vowel Sound	-ei long "a" /ei/ Vowel Sound
Achieve	Beige
Belief	Eight
Chief	Feign
Relief	Neighbor
Yield	Weigh

-cie for either /s/ or /sh/ sound	-cei for /s/ sound
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Policies /s/	Ceiling
Science /s/	Deceive
Efficient /s/	Perceive
Society /s/	Receipt
Glacier /sh/	Receive

The following word list having i before e (ie) were selected from different Spelling Bee Word List.

1. Achievement
2. Acquiesce
3. Acquiescence
4. Ancient
5. Adelie
6. Agencies
7. Alien

8. Animalier
9. Anxiety
10. Audience
11. Batteries
12. Barrier
13. Bas-relief
14. Believe
15. Believable
16. Besieged
17. Biennial
18. Bonspiel
19. Boulevardier

20. Bourgeoisie
21. Boutonniere
22. Broderie
23. Butterflies

24. Calefacient
25. Camaraderie
26. Cavalier
27. Chandelier
28. Chevalier
29. Comedienne
30. Consigliere
31. Coterie
32. Courier
33. Courtier
34. Curries
35. Debrief
36. Deficiency
37. Dhurrie
38. Diegesis- DI-GI-SIS
39. Dietetic
40. Dietician

41. Diesel
42. Dossier
43. Eerie
44. Ebullience
45. Efficient
46. Emollient
47. Espalier
48. Expedient
49. Equestrienne
50. Fiefdom
51. Field
52. Fiend
53. Fiery
54. Fiesta
55. Frontier
56. Frontiersman
57. Frontispiece

58. Funnier
59. Ghillie
60. Glazier
61. Glockenspiel
62. Gradient
63. Grazier
64. Grievance
65. Grievous
66. Hacienda
67. Handkerchief
68. Hierarchy
69. Hieroglyphic
70. Hieroglyphics
71. Hierurgical
72. Hygiene
73. Inalienable
74. Inconvenient

75. Ingredient
76. Insufficiency
77. Julienne
78. Kielbasa
79. Klieg
80. Leniency
81. Lenient
82. Libraries
83. Liege
84. Lien
85. Lieu
86. Lieutenant
87. Luthier
88. Maieutic
89. Meuniere
90. Milieu
91. Mischief

92. Mischievous
93. Moiety
94. Moxie
95. Nescience
96. Newbie
97. Niece
98. Nieve
99. Nosiest
100. Notoriety
101. Omniscience
102. Oriel
103. Parmentier
104. Patience
105. Patient
106. Papeterie
107. Pie
108. Piety

109. Pissaladiere
110. Pixie
111. Prairie
112. Premier
113. Premiere
114. Presentient
115. Prescience
116. Prescient
117. Priest
118. Proficient
119. Quiescent
120. Quiet
121. Quotient
122. Recipient
123. Relieve
124. Review
125. Retriever

- 126. Reprieve
- 127. Rookie
- 128. Rotisserie
- 129. Rubefacient
- 130. Salient
- 131. Satiety
- 132. Serried
- 133. Shield
- 134. Shrieval
- 135. Siege
- 136. Sierra
- 137. Sieve
- 138. Sobriety
- 139. Sortie
- 140. Spiedini
- 141. Subservient
- 142. Tallied

- 143. Tarsier
- 144. Thief
- 145. Thievery
- 146. Tinnient
- 147. Transient
- 148. Transparencies
- 149. Unclassified
- 150. Unyielding
- 151. Variegated
- 152. Vizier
- 153. Wield
- 154. Worried

Did you notice that some of the words did not follow the rules of using -ei after the C alphabet? That's the exception we are talking about. Example is

omniscience. Now look for the other exceptions.

The following word list having e before i (ei) were selected from different Spelling Bee Word Lists.

1. Aniseikonia
2. Backstein
3. Cameist
4. Capoeira
5. Conceit
6. Conceited
7. Conceive
8. Decaffeinate
9. Deceive
10. Deicide

11. Deification
12. Deign
13. Deipnosophist
14. Dreikanter
15. Edelweiss
16. Eicus
17. Einstein
18. Either
19. Fahrenheit
20. Feign
21. Feint
22. Foreign
23. Forfeit
24. Fraulein
25. Freight
26. Geiger
27. Geisha

28. Gneiss
29. Heifer
30. Height
31. Heighten
32. Heinous
33. Heinousness
34. Heir
35. Inconceivable
36. Inveigh
37. Inveighed
38. Inveigle
39. Issei
40. Jadeite
41. Kaleidoscope
42. Keitloa
43. Kibei
44. Kneidel

45. Leisure
46. Madeleine
47. Meiji
48. Meiosis
49. Moreish
50. Neighbor
51. Nereid
52. Nisei
53. Neither
54. Nonpareil
55. Obeisance
56. Obeisant
57. Outweigh
58. Peignoir
59. Perceive
60. Plebeian
61. Politeia

62. Pompeii
63. Pottergeist
64. Protein
65. Receipt
66. Receive
67. Reimburse
68. Reindeer
69. Reiterate
70. Reinterpret
71. Reveille
72. Rottweiler
73. Sansei
74. Seiche
75. Seine
76. Seize
77. Sleigh
78. Sovereign

79. Surfeit
80. Surveillance
81. Spontaneity
82. Their
83. Tracheid
84. Trompel'oeil
85. Tplebeian
86. Valleity
87. Veinous
88. Veil
89. Vermeil
90. Wastweir
91. Weigh
92. Weighed
93. Weight
94. Weimaraner
95. Weird

- 96. Weissnichtwo
- 97. Zeitgeber
- 98. Zeitgeist
- 99. Albeit
- 100. Beige

You will notice some words actually followed the rule of using -ei after c. Example is conceit. Now find the rest.

Let's hope you saw others. Now did you notice that learning the right pronunciation can help you with spelling some of these words?

