

**Rule 27: Adding suffixes
beginning with a vowel to
root words ending in ‘fer’**



Teacher information

- This teaching resource is organised into four sections: **1)** Explanation of the rule **2)** Examples of key words that fit the rule **3)** Opportunities to practise **4)** Further examples of commonly used words following the rule & some notable exceptions.
- These slides are intended as a starting point for teaching this rule. The lists of words given at the end might be used for card sorting exercises or a variety of spelling games.
- **NOTE:** Suffixes beginning with a vowel after words that end 'vowel, consonant' are covered in **Rule 21.**

1) Rule 27: Explanation

For root words that end in 'fer', the final 'r' is usually **doubled** before a suffix beginning with a vowel if the last syllable is **stressed**.

referring preferred transferring

offered reference buffering

FIND OUT: Which suffixes start with a vowel?

2) Rule 27: Examples

Look at the root word before the **suffix**.

conferring

preference

referee

offered

suffered

buffering

deferring

transferring

inference

THINK: Which syllable in the root word is **stressed**?

3) Rule 27: Practice

Double the final consonant if the last syllable is **stressed**.

Starter

refer____(*ed*)

offer____(*ing*)

suffer____(*ed*)

infer____(*ing*)

Challenge 1

prefer____(*ed*)

confer____(*ing*)

refer____(*ence*)

buffer____(*ing*)

Challenge 2

defer____(*ing*)

refer____(*ee*)

transfer____(*ing*)

confer____(*ence*)

THINK: Compare **preferring** and **preference**;
referred and **referee**. What do you notice?

4) Rule 27: Further examples

Last syllable before suffix is stressed

referring
deferred
inferring
conferred
preferring
transferred

*(Many of these can have
other suffixes beginning
with vowels.)*

Last syllable before suffix is NOT stressed

offered
reference
buffering
conference
referee
suffering
preference
inference

*(Many of these can have
other suffixes beginning
with vowels.)*

Note

Be aware of words
where the stress
changes depending on
which suffix they are
matched with.

referring v referee

preferred v preference

NOTE: Suffixes beginning with a vowel after root words that end 'vowel, consonant' are covered in **Rule 21**.