



Rule 28: 'ei' or 'ie'



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.

1) Rule 28: Explanation

How is the 'ee' sound spelt in these words?

chief re**c**eipt relief con**c**eit

i before e except after **c** (*when the sound is ee*)

Lots of these words can be written with different
suffixes and prefixes!

mis**ch**ief re**c**eipts relie**v**ed con**c**eit**e**d

2) Rule 28: Examples

i before e except after **c** (*when the sound is ee*)

Which spelling is used in these words? Why?

thief

priest

ceiling

field

re**c**eive

diesel

de**c**eive

achieve

relief

THINK: How many new words can you make by adding suffixes and prefixes to these?

3) Rule 28: Practice

i before e except after **c** (*when the sound is ee*)

Starter

th_ie__f

rel__ie_f

c__ei_ling

br_ie__f

rec_ei__ve

Challenge 1

grieving

perceive

pierced

believe

receipt

Challenge 2

handkerchief

deceived

Overachieved

Hygienic

misconceive

THINK: Which words BREAK this rule? E.g. their, either

4) Rule 28: Further examples

i before e

chief
niece
diesel
field
brief
relief
pierce
priest
grief
thief
believe
retrieve
achieve
hygiene
handkerchief

e before i (after a c)

receive
perceive
receipt
ceiling
deceive
conceive
conceit

Exceptions

e before i (NOT after a c)

seize
weird
protein
caffeine
seize
neither
either

Note

Words that end in 'cy' may change to 'cie' when suffixes such as 'er', 'ed', 'es' are added (**Rule 14**).
E.g. fancyy > fancied.

There are many other words spelt with 'ei' or 'ie' that do not make the 'ee' sound, e.g. their, science. Many of these are covered in Clued Spelling.

NOTE: Many of these words can be written with various suffixes and prefixes
e.g. receiver, received, receiving, disbelieve, unbelievers.