

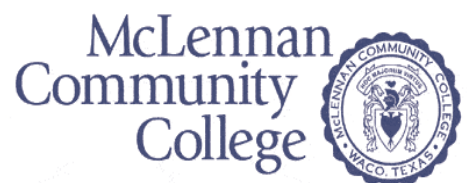
The IE Spelling Rule

Avoid Spelling Mistakes

MCLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE - WRITING CENTER

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Writing Center (SC-222)
McLennan Community College
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The IE Spelling Rule

Avoid Spelling Mistakes

Spelling Rules for Words With “IE”

- The sound of a word with ie or ei combinations often helps you decide which combination to select.
- If the sound is a long e (as in me)), spell the word with an ie : believe, achieve, relieve.
- If the sound is anything but a long e, you usually spell the word with an ei. In these words the ei combination has a long a sound as in pray: neigh, eighteen, sleigh.
- The letter c also determines the correct combination: if a c comes before the letters, put the e before the i deceit, receipt.

Remember the old jingle?

Place i before e except after c

Or when sounded as ay As in neighbor and weigh.

Remember, in addition, these exceptions: efficiency, leisure, scientific seize, either, neither, foreign, height.