

Rule 1

When a weak verb ends in a short vowel + consonant, the final consonant is not doubled to form the past tense, unless the accent falls on the last syllable.

Budget - budgeted (NOT budgetted)

Offer - offered (NOT offered)

Benefit - benefited (NOT benefitted)

Notes

Worship is an exception to this rule. Its past tense is formed by doubling the final consonant.

Worship - worshipped (NOT worshiped)

If the accent falls on the last syllable, the consonant is doubled even if the word ends in a short vowel + consonant.

So we have

Occur - occurred (NOT Occured)

Transfer - transferred (NOT transfered)

Begin - beginning (NOT begining)

If the final consonant is 'l', it is always doubled.

Travel - travelled

Level - leveled

Parallel is an exception to this rule. Its past tense is paralleled (NOT parallelled). Nowadays traveled is also considered correct.

Rule 2

Short monosyllables always double their final consonant.

Shop – shopping

Let – letting

'ie' and 'ei'

The general rule is 'i' before 'e' except after 'c'.

Examples are: *siege, believe, friend*

But receive, deceive, ceiling etc.

There are several exceptions to this rule.

Reign, neighbor, heir, seize, leisure, weird

Dis and mis

Never double the 's' of these prefixes. When a second 's' occurs it is the first letter of the next syllable.

Examples are: dismiss (not dissmis), misplace (not missplace)

dissent (dis-sent), misspell (mis-spell)

'us' and 'ous'

Nouns end in 'us'. Adjectives end in 'ous'. So we have:

Census, genius (nouns)

Jealous, tremendous,