Some useful spelling rules

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.
Some useful spelling rules

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 dismiss), 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,