

# How Words Work

## Words

Prefixes are just added to the start of base words

Suffixes are added to the end of base words, using the 4 spelling rules

**prefix** – **base word** – **suffix**

Vowel suffixes start with a, e, i, o, u and sometimes just y

Consonant suffixes

- ▶ ing
- ▶ ed
- ▶ er
- ▶ est
- ▶ y
- ▶ able
- ▶ ist
- ▶ ism

- ▶ ness
- ▶ ful
- ▶ less
- ▶ ly
- ▶ ment

## Syllables

Syllables are beats in a word.  
Every syllable has a vowel sound.

## Sounds

(Also called phonemes)

### 24 Consonant Sounds

Made by moving your mouth and changing the air flow

### 20 Vowel Sounds

Made by opening your mouth and using a new puff of air

## Letters

(Also called graphemes)

### Graph

1 letter making one sound

### Digraph

2 letters making one sound

### Split digraph

2 letters making one sound that are split with a letter in between

### Trigraph

3 letters making one sound

### Vowel letters

a, e, i, o, u, and sometimes y