Ten Spelling Strategies
from www.spelling-words-well.com

To Double or Not to Double

1. If a one-syllable word has a short vowel sound and ends with one consonant, double the final consonant before adding a suffix that begins with a vowel or y. Examples: swimmer, dipping, saggy

2. If a one-syllable word ends with two consonants or two vowels and one consonant, do not double the final consonant before adding a suffix that begins with a vowel. Examples: helper, reading, rushed

3. If a one-syllable word has a short vowel sound, do not double the final consonant before adding a suffix that begins with a consonant. Examples: sadly, bagful, fitness

Strategies for Silent e

4. Drop a silent e before adding a suffix that begins with a vowel. Examples: hoping, joked, believable.

5. If a word ends with a silent e, do not drop the e when adding a suffix that begins with a consonant. Examples: careless, safety, arrangement.
(We’ve written some spelling exercises to practice the rules above.)

Spelling Strategies for More suffixes

6. When the suffix -ly is added to a word, the spelling of the base word does not usually change. Examples: kindly, actively, slowly. Exceptions: terribly, truly, wholly, and others

7. The suffix -ful never has two ls. When -ful is added to a word, the spelling of the base word usually does not change. Examples: thankful, spoonful, forgetful

(See https://www.spelling-words-well.com/list-of-suffixes.html for more suffixes.)
Y or I?

8. If a word ends with a consonant and a y, change the y to i before adding any suffix (except one that begins with i). Do not change the y if it is preceded by a vowel. Examples: cries, sleepy, joyful

9. When a word ends with a y, do not change the y when adding a suffix that begins with i. Examples: studying, crying, paying

IE or EI?

10. Use i before e except after c or when sounded like a as in neighbor and weigh. Examples: friend, believe, ceiling, receive, eight, vein

Note: There are many exceptions to this rule, including: neither, science, their, weird, ancient, height, protein, sufficient and more. These words need to be memorized.

Here’s a step-by-step lesson plan to help you learn this rule:
https://www.spelling-words-well.com/spelling-lesson-plans.html

This list of 285 IE/EI words will help you memorize all those words that don’t fit the rule!
https://www.spelling-words-well.com/difficult-spelling-words.html

Please visit www.spelling-words-well.com for more spelling tips, exercises, worksheets and games!