

WORDS ENDING IN Y

“By the time I was two, all my memories had words, and all my words had meanings. But only in my head. I have never spoken a single word. I am almost eleven years old.”

—From *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper, found by Layne Dentinger

Teach it

1. Write this on the board

Words ending in y

If you're adding a suffix to a word ending in **y**, look at the letter before the **y**. If it's a vowel, just add "s." If it's a consonant, change the **y** to an "i" and add the suffix.

Ex:

baby–babies
country–countries
monkey–monkeys
holiday–holidays

Ex:

(y to i) (y to i)
The ladies went to rallies in six
(y to i)
cities.

PRACTICE THE CONVERSATION:

- A:** Will you please read the sentence?
B: *The ladies went to rallies in six cities.*
A: Great. Do you see any words that did end in "y"?
B: I do. *Ladies, rallies, cities.*
A: Exactly! But there is no "y" in them now?
B: No. In all three cases, the "y" has been changed to an "i."
Then -es is added.
A: Great. Would we do the same thing if one of the words was *highway*?
B: No, we would not.
A: What would we do then?
B: We'd just add an "s." *Highways.*
A: How do you know when to change the "y" to an "i"?
B: You look at the letter before the "y." If it's a vowel, the "y" stays.
But if the "y" is the only vowel, it changes to an "i."
A: Excellent!



2. **Explain:**

This rule deals most of all with forming the plurals of **words ending in y**. We often change the "y" to an "i" before adding **-es**.

But does this always apply? No. If there is a **vowel** before the "y" (like keys or days), then we just add the "s." But any other time, we change that "y" to an "i" before adding suffixes.

Look at the example sentence. The underline means I intentionally made a grammatical choice here. The proof above the word shows that I know why I made the choice; I know the rule about **words ending in "y."**

3. **Ask:** Who will try out this spelling rule with me? (Enact the conversation.)
4. **Say:** Open to your grammar chart and find the spelling rule for **words ending in "y."** Let's jot down an example on the chart.

Model it

5. Project the journal entry and read it.
6. Ask volunteers to read aloud each of the sentences with underlined words. Ask them each to state the rule: we change the "y" to an "i" before we add a suffix.

Practice it

7. **Say:** In your journal today, try to use at least five plurals of **words that end in “y,”** underlining each use. Write the proof over each one.

April 29

M = mom

D = dad

S = me

R = bro

A = sis

! = !

M: We should move to a different city.

D: Well how would we sell this house?

D: I agree, we should go to Austin.

R: Hey mom, hey mom, mom, mom.

M: No, we should go to Corpus

M: (Ugh) what, honey?

Christi.

R: My Lego guy has a yellow hand and a

A: STOP FIGHTING!

blue hand!

D: Sweetie, we are NOT fighting.

M: (sarcastically) Cool, let Mommy and

R: UGH! Stupid cats.

Daddy talk.

M: What did they do, honey booboo?

R: Ok, fine.

R: They messed up my Lego set!

D: Well first we would need to find jobs in

M: Ok, you can fix it, right?

Austin—

R: Sure.

M: Corpus, Ron!

D: Ok, first we would need to find jobs in D: Susan! She can do it on her own!

CORPUS so we could pay for another house. M: Fine.

M: Yeah we would. A: Stop FIGHTING!

S: (enters room suspiciously) What up yo? M: WE ARE NOT FIGHTING!

M: Nothing. D: Susan! Talk nicer to the kids!

D: We want to move to Aus— M: You yell at them—

M: CORPUS, Ron, Corpus. D: When they do the wrong thing!

D: fine. Corpus Christie, honey. M: Fine.

A: STOP IT GUYS! S: How do you spell ^(y to i)**cities**?!

M: We are NOT fighting! D: Figure it out, Sara!

S: DAD!!! S: I tried!

D: What! M: Come here, Sara!

S: How do you spell ^(y to i)**cities**? S: What?

D: Why! D: Let me see your homework.

S: It's my homework! S: Ok.

D: Figure it out. R: I need toilet paper!

M: It is c-i-t- M: Amy, GET YOUR BROTHER TOILET
PAPER!

D: Ok, it starts with a C.

A: No I'm not.

S: C-i-t-y-s, right?

M: Stop it, you two. And Sara would be the

D: No.

crazy baby.

M: Guess again, honey.

D: Susan! They're not ^(y to i)**babies**, they're just

D: Ok, so it's c-i-what?

kids.

S: I said c-i-t-y-s!

M: Sara, do your homework.

D: No, it has 2 i's and no y's.

S: But I don't know how to spell ^(y to i)**cities**.

D: Yes.

D: C-i-t-i-e-s. There, now finish your

S: Ok, then c-i-t-y-s, citys.

homework.

M and D: NO!

S: Fine.

S: Dang it!

HW: You live in San Antonio, TX. What is

D: Don't say that, it hurts me to hear

San Antonio?

you talk like your mother.

S: (writes) San Antonio is a city. A crazy

A: I didn't say the D word.

and happy city! One of the ^(y to i)**craziest**,

S: You call Amy a goody goody and she

^(y to i) ^(y to i)**happiest cities** anywhere.

can't cuss! And she's the ^(y to i)**craziest** baby.

(And I never learned to spell ^(y to i)**cities** until a while ago.)

—Sara Toms
Grade 6