

Worksheet 1 – Urban Myths Spelling Rule Myths

The English language is renowned for being incredibly difficult to spell due the immense number of spelling rules that must apply. Even when we think we have mastered the rules for how to spell certain words, there are usually a few exceptions thrown into the mix. One common example of this is the rule for the vowel diagraphs 'ie' and 'ei' (Diagraphs are two letters being combined to represent a single sound. Two letter vowel clusters are specifically named 'diphthongs'.) Usually we employ the basic rule: **'i' before 'e' except after 'c'** but sometimes this just does not cover it! Try memorising these three rules instead:

RULE 1: Use 'i' before 'e' when spelling a word with the 'ee' sound except after the letter 'c'.

RULE 2: Use 'ei' for a word with the 'ay' or 'eye' sounds.

RULE 3: Remember there are still exceptions to these rules!!

Task 1: Insert the correct use of the 'ei' or 'ie' diagraph into these sentences from *Urban Myths*. Which rule did you use for each?

1. An 'urban myth' is a modern myth, not a classical or anc__ __nt myth.
2. It is a story that pretends to be real, but is in fact unbel__ __vable.
3. "Mum this chicken has a tail!" She unwraps the p__ __ce of chicken.
4. The girl gets hysterical and demands that her boyfr__ __nd drive her home.
5. A couple ask a n__ __ghbour's daughter, Jenny, to babysit th__ __r three children while they go out for the night.
6. A policeman grabs her. Others s__ __ze the lunatic, handcuff him and drag him away.
7. Not all urban legends are terrifying. Many are about the sheer w__ __rdness of life.

Task 2: Spell each word below correctly then classify all the words according to the three spelling rules above.

rel__ _f	conc__ _t	sl__ _gh	gr__ _f	s__ _ze
v__ _l	f__ _nd	_ _ght	rec__ _pt	h__ _ght
sh__ _ld	dec__ _ve	br__ _f	conc__ _ve	hyg__ _ne
fr__ _ght	f__ _rce	perc__ _ve	n__ _ther	rec__ _ve
c__ _ling	r__ _gn	v__ _n	f__ _ld	w__ _ght

Extension Activity:

- Write an expository text about some of the urban myths involving encounters with life from outer space e.g. aliens and UFOs.