

Worksheet 1

Urban Myths

Spelling Rule Myths

The English language is renowned for being incredibly difficult to spell due to 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.