**vc Rule**

A vowel followed by a consonant is short; code it with a breve.

A breve looks like a smile placed over the short vowel.

Examples of words following this rule:

log  cat  sit  tug  wet

**v Rule**

An open, accented vowel is long; code it with a macron.

A macron is a line -- placed over the long vowel.

Examples of words following this rule:

no  me  so  we  go  hi

**Twin Consonants**

Twin consonants are two identical letters side by side in a word with only the first letter making the sound.

To code a word with twin consonants cross out the second letter of the pair.

Examples of words following this rule:

ball  class  stuff

**Consonant Digraphs**

A digraph is two letters that come together and make one sound. This is different from a blend. In a blend the two sounds can be distinguished.

**Digraphs:**

- **ck** - code this by underlining and crossing out the c
- **ng** - code this by underlining the digraph

The digraph **th** has a voiced and unvoiced sound. To determine if **th** is unvoiced or voiced, place three fingers over your throat and say the word. If you feel vibrations when pronouncing the **th**, then the **th** is voiced. To code this digraph underline **th** and then draw a voice line through **th**. A voice line is simply a line drawn across the middle of the digraph.

- **sh**
- **ch**
**Vowel Digraphs**

A vowel digraph is two letters with the first letter making a long sound and the second letter is silent. Sometimes it is called "first one does the talking, the second keeps on walking."

Vowel digraphs studied so far:

- ee - code this by underlining and crossing out the second e.
  - ee
  - ay
  - ai
  - oo

The digraph oo has two sounds. One is the sound heard in hook. Code the digraph for this sound with a breve over it. The other sound is the sound heard in tooth. Code the digraph for this sound with a macron over it.

  - ue
  - au
  - aw

**vccv Rule**

When a word contains more than one vowel, it could follow the vccv or vowel-consonant-consonant-vowel pattern. The first step is to mark the vowels by writing a v under each vowel. Then mark the consonants by writing a c under them. Next divide the word into syllables by drawing a line between the two consonants. Code the vowels and decide which syllable receives the accent (').

Examples of words following this rule:

- napkin
- picnic
- rabbit

**K and C Rules**

There are two ways to spell the /k/ sound.

Spell the /k/ sound with k if the sound comes before e, i, or y.

Examples of this rule:

- keg
- kid
- milky
- skip
- silky

Spell the /k/ sound with c if the sound comes before a, o, u, or any consonant.

Examples of this rule:

- cat
- clip
- crop
- cost
- cup
Final /k/ Rules
Spell the final /k/ sound with digraph ck after a short vowel.
   Examples of this rule:
   black lock neck sick duck
Spell the final /k/ sound with the letter k after a consonant or a vowel
digraph.
   Examples of this rule:
   milk week bank book

v-e Rule
A vowel followed by a consonant and "sneaky e" is long; code the vowel
with a macron and cross out the "sneaky e."
   Examples of this rule:
   name hope these like rule

Combinations
A combination is two letters coming together to make an unexpected
sound. These are different from a digraph because you cannot hear any of
the letters' normal sounds.
   Combinations with the "bossy r":
   ar
   er
   ir
   ur
   or
   Other combinations:
   qu

Final /s/ Rules
After a short vowel, use ss. Examples are:
   boss miss grass dress
After a long vowel, use ce. Examples are:
   ice space
After a consonant or a vowel digraph, use se. Examples are:
   false rinse pulse loose horse
**Dropping Rule**
When a word ends with a "silent e" or "sneaky e", drop the e before adding a vowel suffix.
Ex: make + ing = making
rule + er = ruler

**Diphthongs**
A diphthong is two vowel sounds that come together so quickly that they are considered to be only one syllable.
Diphthongs:
- oi and oy
- ou and ow
Diphthong oi and ou come in the initial or medial position of a word.
Diphthong oy and ow come in the final position of a word.
Ex: join
- boy
- mouse
- cow

**Wild Colt Words**
Wild Colt words contain either the vowels o or i followed by two consonants. The vowel is long when followed by two consonants.
Ex: wild
colt
kind
find
both

**Ghost Letter Digraphs**
We call the "g," "k," and "w" in the digraphs gn, kn, and wr ghost letters or silent letters to help us remember they used to make a sound but now are silent.
Ex: knife
gnaw
wrist

**Doubling Rule**
When a vowel suffix is added to a root word that ends with one vowel and
one consonant, the final consonant is doubled before adding the suffix. Vowel suffixes are ed, ing and y.

Ex: sit + ing = sitting
Sit ends with a vowel followed by one consonant.
Suffix ing is a vowel suffix.
The ending consonant, "t" is doubled before adding the suffix