Spelling rules

-ous

What is the spelling rule?

If a word ends in 'y', change it to an 'i' before adding -ous. If the root word ends in e, take it off before adding –ous. Unless the word has a 'g' sound at the end! If a word ends in 'or' change it to 'our' before adding –ous.

-ation

What is the spelling rule?

The suffix –**ation** is added to verbs to form nouns.

If the last syllable of a word is **unstressed,** and has a vowel before the last letter, just add the **suffix**
For example: inform (to provide facts) = information (the facts provided)

If the verb ends in an **'e'** – we lose the **'e'** before adding the suffix. **For example:** *prepare = preparation*

-ly

What is the spelling rule?

The suffix –**ly** is added to an adjective to form an adverb. Because the starts with a consonant letter, it is just added straight on to **most** root words: *sad = sadly*

Exception 1:

If the root word ends in –**y** with a consonant letter before it, the **y** is changed to **i,** but only if the root word has more than one syllable! **For example:** happy = happily

Exception 2:

If the root word ends with –le, the –le is changed to –ly **For example:** *gentle = gently*

Exception 3:

If the root word ends with –ic, –ally is added rather than just –ly, except in the word publicly.

For example: *basic = basically*

Exception 4

The words truly, duly, wholly – we just need to learn these ones where we drop the 'e' (true =truly)