

# How to End Words: Suffixes

A suffix is an ending to a word; an 'add on' that changes its meaning slightly.

For example **swim** becomes **swimming** when you add the suffix '**ing**'

Swim is called the 'root word'

Note that you have to double the **m**

## *The rule is this:*

You need to double the last letter of the root word when:

- the root word has a **SHORT** vowel followed by **ONE** consonant
- **AND** the suffix **BEGINS** with a vowel – e.g. ing, er, ed

So... **run runner running**

...because the **u** is a short sound followed by only one consonant and the suffix begins with a vowel.

**sad sadder saddest**

Again the **a** is a short sound and the suffix begins with a vowel (er, est).

Now **sadness...**

...only needs one **d** because the suffix 'ness' does NOT begin with a vowel.

**milk milking**

No need to double because there are **TWO** consonants after the short sound **i**.

**take taker**

No need to double because the **a** is a long sound.