Helpful Spelling Hints

1. You hear with your ear.
2. The word here is found in its opposite, there.
3. There is no word in English ending in full except full.
4. The word separate has a rat in it.
5. A villain can live in a villa.
6. There are keys in these animals - donkeys, monkeys
7. Under and over compound words are written as one word - overestimate, overrate, underestimate
8. The possessive pronouns never take the apostrophe because they are already in the possessive case.
9. When spelling words that end in eed or ede, remember only three verbs end in eed - exceed, proceed, succeed. All others regularly end in ede - precede, intercede, concede.
10. Always use all right. alright is not an accepted word.
11. Adverbs are usually formed by taking the word as it is and adding ly to it - (ie.) occasional - occasionally accidental - accidentally wonderful - wonderfully careful - carefully
12. Hyphens: the tendency today is to spell most compounds as one word - upstairs lunchroom newstand textbook
13. Already is acceptable. Note the difference from all ready . The boys are already in school. They were all ready when the bus came.

Other Spelling Information

Prefixes and Suffixes
   Many words are made up of the word's root, the base to which prefixes (beginnings) and suffixes (endings) are added.
1. Usually, when adding a prefix or suffix to a word, spell the word as it is and then add the prefix or suffix.
   - dis + satisfy = dissatisfy (keep the double s)
   - mis + spell = misspell
   - mean + ness = meanness (keep the double n)
   - reason + able = reasonable
   - star + s = stars
2. Adding Other Endings:
   A. Words ending in -ch, -sh, -ss, -z, or -x, usually add -es to form the plural of the noun or third person singular of the verb.
      - dress becomes dresses
      - wish becomes wishes
      - church becomes churches
B. When there is a consonant in front of y, change y to i before adding es.

    berry becomes berries      bury becomes buries
    empty becomes emptiness    try becomes tries

EXCEPTION: Do not change y to i when the ending begins with i or when a proper name ends in y.

    study becomes studying      try becomes trying
    Kelly becomes Kellys

C. When a one-syllable word ends in a single consonant with a single short vowel sound in front of it, double the final consonant before adding an ending that begins with a vowel (-ed, -ing, -age, -ish, -er, -ar, and -y).

    win becomes winning, winner
    man becomes manish
    swim becomes swimmer, swimming

In words of more than one syllable, only double the consonant if the accent is on the final syllable.

    begin becomes beginning     occur becomes occurring
    prefer becomes preferred    omit becomes omitted

EXCEPTION: benefit becomes benefited

D. When a word ends with a silent e, drop the e before adding an ending which starts with a vowel.

    come becomes coming         lose becomes losing

NOTE: The final e usually indicates that the preceding vowel is a long vowel. Note the differences in pronunciation in the list below:

    hop/hopping      but       hope/hoping
    rat/ratting      but       rate/rating

E. When making a plural out of a noun ending in fe, change the f to v before adding s:

    life becomes lives     half becomes halves
    thief becomes thieves

EXCEPTION: The plural of belief is beliefs.

Deciding on IE or EI:

A. i before e:

    believe view
    friend field
    chief siege
B. Except after c:
   deceive   perceive
   receipt    deceit

C. Or when sounded like "a" as in neighbor and weigh:
   eight       freight
   reign       veil

D. Other exceptions to watch for:
   either      neither
   leisure     seize

Additional Spelling Hints

1. Government comes from the word govern, so remember the n.
2. Don't forget the extra r in the middle of February.
   lunchroom   newsstand   textbook
3. It's (with an apostrophe) is always a contraction for it is.
4. A lot is always two words, also.
5. Only six words end in -ery:
   cemetry      monastery    millinery
   confectionery distillery  stationery (as in paper)
6. Only four words end in -efy:
   stupefy      putrefy      liquefy     rarefy

7. Prize ends in -ze, but when it is part of another word, the ending is spelled with an -se:
   surprise  comprise  enterprise
8. Generally, the suffix -able is added to words that could stand alone or to word stems ending in i:
   agreeable  dependable  breakable
   reliable   sociable    appreciable
9. The ending -ible is usually added to word parts that cannot stand alone without a suffix:
   audible     visible    credible
10. When a verb ends in -nd, sometimes the noun derived from it will substitute se for d:
    defend -- defense  pretend -- pretense
    offend -- offense  suspend -- suspense
11. The prefix ante- means before, and the anti- means against.
    Antebellum means before the Civil War.
    An antidote is a remedy to counteract a poison.
12. Accommodate (2 c's, 2 m's)   recommend (1 c, 2 m's)
    occur (2 c's, 1 r)       occurred (2 c's, 2 r's)