



i before e...
if it sounds like an “ee”
and in the word “friend”
or if the “e” and “i” blend

(to make the “e” say his name, not his sound)

E		
If it sounds like “ee” ...		
piece	thief	believe
		chief
		brief
		grief
		relief
	shield	field
		yield
		achieve
		receive
		view
	ceiling	receipt
		fierce
		niece
		deceive
		pierce
priest	siege	retrieve
		diesel
		hygiene
		relieved
When it’s “e” THEN “i” ...		
A	I	Two Vowels Go Walking
Does NOT sound like “ee”, sounds like “ay”	Does NOT sound like “ee”, sounds like “eye”	Rule that makes the “e” say his name, not his sound *This is why visual memory of the word helps us know the correct spelling of the word
weigh neighbor eight freight their beige vein veil their sleigh reindeer	height feisty heist	protein weird leisure lither neither seize Sheila Keith caffeine
Exceptions: *Most words that follow this rule are SINGLE syllables. The ones that break the rule are usually MULTI-syllable words (ex. science is two syllables and follows the “open syllable rule” where the word is divided after the letter “i” so it says its name, not its sound.) *Other exceptions are when the letters “ti” or “ci” are used to make the /sh/ sound (ex. patient, glacier, efficient) * When the “ei” combination makes the “i” say its sound “ih” - foreign – from the Old French word “forain” from the 1300’s which means “outside the country’s boundaries”. In English, it became mixed with “reign” meaning “rule or power”, so it literally means “someone who is from another ruler in another land”. -feit (as in counterfeit or forfeit) –forfeit and counterfeit come from Old French spellings. “Forfet” and meaning “to lose by misconduct” and c“ounterfeit” comes from “contre” meaning “against” and “faire” meaning “to make”.		