

The long **i** sound spelled with “**i-e**” as in “**site**”



The “i-e” Rule: One consonant between two vowels is too weak to keep the vowels from helping each other (from walking together).

bit and bite

Compare “**bit**” with “**bite**.” We learned earlier as in “**tie**,” that when two vowels are walking, the first one does the talking. This second rule in this lesson is built on that previous rule.

As in “**bite**,” one consonant between two vowels is too weak to keep the two vowels from helping each other (from walking together). This means that when there is only one consonant between two vowels, like the one “t” in “**bite**,” that one “t” cannot keep the two vowels “i” and “e” away from each other (from walking together). The two vowels in “**bite**” can still help each other and walk together in this way “**i-e**.” The silent “e” can still help make the “i” long as if the two vowels were like this “**i-e**” and as if the “t” were not between them. A dash as in “**i-e**” represents not only the “t” but any single consonant between the two vowels, like the one “p” in “**ripe**.” Having only one consonant between two vowels is like having no consonant.

dinner and diner

To prevent two vowels from walking together, a consonant doubles as in **bit**→**bitten**, and this explains the reason for doubling the consonants. If you hear the sound of short **i**, use “**tt**” after the “**e**” as in “**bitten**.” We use one “n” after the long **i** in “**diner**” and “**nn**” after the short **i** in “**dinner**.”

This same rule applies to other vowels. For instance, we use one “p” after the long “**o**” in “**hoped**” and “**pp**” after the short “**o**” in “**hopped**.” Examine these examples of any single consonant between two vowels being weak: **fate**, **theme**, **dine**, **hope**, **cure**

The “**vowel-e**” Rule applies only to specific two vowels that fall in the same syllable, and that syllable must be stressed. All such specific vowels are presented in the book titled *Learn to Spell 500 Words a Day* by Camilia Sadik. See these examples of any single consonant being weak between two vowels: **plane**’, **air·plane**’, **these**’, **Leb·a·nese**’, **side**’, **out·side**’, **scope**’, **mi·cro·scope**’, **hope**’, **hope**’·ful, **fume**’, **per·fume**’

i-e = i

One consonant between
vowels is too weak.

Compare: Compare “sit” with “site.” The “i” in “sit” does not sound like the name of the letter I. Without the final silent “e” in “site,” we would have “sit,” not “site.” The “i” in “sit” has the short “i” sound.



Compare short **i** with long **ī** in these words:

sit, **site**

bit, **bite**

kit, **kite**

quit, **quite**

wit, **white**

mitt, **mite**

spit, **spite**

Sid, **side**

slid, **slide**

rid, **ride**

bid, **bide**

hid, **hide**

Mick, **Mike**

lick, **like**

licked, **liked**

hick, **hike**

pick, **pike**

rip, **ripe**

strip, **stripe**

stripped, **striped**

grip, **gripe**

gripped, **griped**

whip, **wipe**

whipped, **wiped**

pip, **pipe**

mill, **mile**

pill, **pile**

fill, **file**

till, **tile**

bill, **bile**

Tim, **time**

limb, **lime**

slim, **slime**

rim, **rime**

grim, **grime**

dim, **dime**

din, **dine**

dinner, **diner**

pin, **pine**

spin, **spine**

fin, **fine**

twin, **twine**



The “**i-e**” phonic occurs in approximately **552** words and these are **90** of them; read them aloud slowly:

Mike	like	liked
lik·ing	lik·a·ble	dis·like
a·like	hike	hiked
hik·ing	hik·er	bike
biked	bik·ing	bik·er
pike	turn·pike	spike
dike	strike	striking



side	a·side	be·side
in·side	in·sider	out·side
out·sider	sid·ed	one-sided
sid·ing	de·cide	de·cid·ed
de·cid·ing	su·i·cide	su·i·cid·al
in·sec·ti·cide	co·in·cide	hy·drox·ide
di·ox·ide	per·ox·ide	re·side
pre·side	pre·sid·ed	pre·sid·ing
slide	slid·ing	glide
glid·ing	col·lide	col·lid·ed
col·lid·ing	ride	rid·ing

rid·er

de·ride

pride

bride

stride

a·stride

be·stride

de·rid

bide

a·bide

a·bid·ed

a·bid·ing

tide

be·tide

hide

hid·ing

wide

wid·er

wid·est

wide·spread

wid·en

wid·ened

wid·en·ing

pro·vide

pro·vid·ed

pro·vid·ing

pro·vid·er

bo·na·fide

con·fide

guide

guid·ed

guid·ing

chide



ripe

stripe

stripes