Adding suffixes: words ending –e

Explanation

Use these special rules when you add suffixes to words **ending –e**.
If the **suffix begins with a vowel** (a, e, i, o, u), you usually **drop the –e** before adding the suffix. It is called a **vowel suffix**. (For this rule, the **suffix y** also counts as a vowel suffix.)

Example natur**e** + **al** → natural   fam**e** + **ous** → famous   laz**e** + **y** → lazy

If the **suffix begins with a consonant**, you **keep the –e** and add the suffix.

Example lov**e** + **ly** → lovely   advertis**e** + **ment** → advertisement

Activities

1 Use the rule to add these **suffixes** to the root words. The first one has been done.

a strange
- er = *stranger*
- ness = *strangeness*

f use
- er =
- ful =

b extreme
- ist =
- ly =

g sure
- est =
- ly =

c forgive
- able =
- ness =

h pure
- ify =
- ness =

d excite
- able =
- ment =

i noise
- y =
- less =

e achieve
- ment =
- able =

j scarce
- ly =
- ity =

Did you know?

There are always some words that do not follow the rules. For example, **argue** ends **–e** but drops the **–e** when for a consonant suffix: argu**e** + **ment** → argument.