Spalding Rules

1. The letter q is always followed by u and together they say kw (queen). The u is not considered a vowel in this instance.

2. The letter c before e, i, or y says /s/ (cent, city, cycle), but followed by any other letter is says k (cat, cot, cut).

3. The letter g before e, i, or y may say /j/ (page, giant, gym), but followed by any other letter it says /g/ (gate, go, gust). The letters e and I following g do not always make the g say /j/ (get, girl, give).

4. Vowels a, e, o, and u usually say their long sounds (name) at the end of a syllable. Examples: na – vy mu – sic o – pen.

5. The letters i and y usually say the short sound of I, but sometimes they say the long sound of i. examples: (long) si – lent , type; (short) big, gym (both follow the cvc pattern of spelling).

6. The letter y, not i, is used at the end of an English word. Examples: my, why

7. There are five kinds of silent final e’s.
   a. Single vowels before any single consonant can say their long sound if a silent e ends the base word (time).
   b. English words do not end in v or u, so an e is added at the end of the word (have, blue).
   c. Silent final e’s can be used at the end of words to make the letter c and g say their second sounds (chance, charge).
   d. Every syllable, in English, must have at least one vowel. Words in which the second syllable is ble, cle, dle, fle, gle,
kle, ple, sle, tle, or zle have a silent e added so each can be a separate syllable.

e. The last kind of silent, final e has no job. Usually these words are relics of Old English (are).

8. There are five spellings of the sound /er/. The phonogram or may say /er/ when it follows w (work). We remember these using “H_{er} first n_{urse} w_{orks} e_{arly}.”

9. For one-syllable words that have one vowel and end in one consonant (hop), write another final consonant (hop + ped) before adding suffixes (endings) that beginning with a vowel.

10. Words of two syllables (begin) in which the second syllable (gin) is accented and ends in one consonant, with one vowel before it, need another final consonant (be gin + ning) before adding a suffix (ending) that begins with a vowel.

11. Words ending with a silent final e (come) are written without the e when adding a suffix (ending) that begins with a vowel (coming).

12. After c we use ei (receive). If we say the long sound of /a/, we use ei (vein). There are some words that are exceptions to this rule.

13. The phonogram sh is used at the beginning or end of a base word (she, dish), at the end of a syllable (fin ish), but never at the beginning of a syllable after the first one. The exception is in the suffix –ship (friend + ship).
14. The phonograms *ti, si, and ci* are the spellings most frequently used to say *sh* at the beginning of a second or subsequent syllable in a base word (nation, session, facial).

15. The phonogram *si* is used to say *sh* when the syllable before it ends in an *s* (session) or when the base word has an *s* where the base word changes (tense to tension).

16. The phonogram *si* may also say /zh/, as in vision.

17. We often double *l, f, and s* following a single vowel at the end of a one-syllable word (will, off, miss). This rule sometimes applies to two-syllable words like recess.

18. We often use *ay* to say the long sound of /a/ at the end of a base word, never the letter *a* alone.

19. Vowels *i* and *o* may say their long sounds if followed by two consonants (find, old).

20. The letter *s* almost never follows the letter *x*. The phonogram *x* already has the sound of *s* included /ks/.

21. *All*, written alone, has two l’s, but when it is written with another syllable, only one l is written (al so, al most).

22. *Till* and *full*, written alone, have two l’s, but when they are written with another syllable, only one l is written (un til, beau ti ful).
23. The phonogram *dge* may be used only after a single vowel that says, the short sounds of a, e, i, o, u (badge, edge, bridge, lodge, budge).

24. When adding a suffix (ending) to a word that ends with a consonant and *y*, use *i* instead of *y* unless the ending is -ing.

25. The phonogram *ck* may be used only after a single vowel that says the short sounds of a, e, i, o, or u (back, neck, lick, rock, duck).

26. Words that are the names or titles of people, places, books, days, or months are capitalized (Mary, Honolulu, Amazon River, Monday, July).

27. Words beginning with the sound /z/ are always spelled with *z*, never *s* (zoo).

28. The phonogram *ed* has three sounds and is used to form the past tense of verbs. If the verb ends in the sound /d/, or /t/, adding -ed makes another syllable that says, ed (hand ed, land ed, paint ed, plant ed). If the verb ends in an unvoiced consonant, the suffix (ending) -ed says the sound /t/ (looked, liked, jumped, washed). In all other verbs, the suffix (ending) -ed says the sound /d/ (lived, killed, played, belonged).

29. Words are usually divided between double consonants within a base word.