

The Proof Angel Summary of

Spelling tips: September 2013

Accommodation

Some people say you have to remember that the difficult letters are doubled. I've seen the d doubled. So remember:

Our accommodation has Comfy Chairs and Modern Mats.

Asthma

A Sensitivity To House Mites, Allegedly.

Committee

This is easy to remember if you hate meetings, but harder if you enjoy them.

Many Meetings Take Time & Everyone's Exhausted.

I before E: the full version

i before e except after c,
or when sounding like a,
as in neighbour or weigh,
unless c sounds as sh,
such as ancient or efficient.



The Proof Angel is the trading name of Sarah Perkins, freelance editor and proofreader.

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Memento

This is hard, because it is easy to go astray and connect with the wrong idea.

A memento represents your memories.

Take care that it doesn't remind you of a moment - that is a common mistake.

Occasion

On occasion you'll travel over two seas. So repeat the letter c.

Just don't get carried away and repeat the s. This one should be easy, as we actually pronounce both the cs. But you'd be surprised...

Piece

Yes I know this is a classic i before e except after c word, but somehow it seems to catch us out. Just remember one phrase to give you the clue:

A piece of pie.

Practice & practise

To remember which is which:

s is the verb & c is the noun: that's the rule that runs the town.

So doctors practise medicine when they are working, because what they are doing is a verb. They do so at a place called a practice, a noun, the name of the place.

And a Licensing Agency such as the DVLA issues licences.

This is all very well if you can remember that the s is the first letter in the rhyme. Which I think is quite hard. The rule applies to the following words:

- advice, practice, device, prophecy, licence - all nouns
- advise, practise, devise, prophesy, license - all verbs



Principal & principle

It is easy to confuse these two completely different words. Some people find it easy to remember that if the word is an adjective, it must be principal they need. It works like this:

- It's the Principal of a College.
- It's the Principle of the Steam Engine.

So you need a little rhyme to remember that:

A Principal,
Can be your pal,
A principle,
Can be you rule.