

## DOUBLING FINAL CONSONANTS

- Words of one syllable** ending in **one vowel + one consonant**, double the final consonant before *-ing*, *-ed*, *-er* and *-est*.

**Put** > putting

**Fat** > fatter

**Sit** > sitting

**Big** > bigger

But words ending in **one vowel + -y, -w or -x**, do not double the final consonant:

**Play** > playing

**Show** > showing

**Mix** > mixing

- Words of two or more syllables** ending in **one vowel + one consonant**, double the final consonant when the stress is on the last syllable:

Begin > beginning /be - **gín**/

Forget > forgetting /for - **gét**/

Prefer > preferred /pre - **fér**/

If the final syllable is not stressed, the final consonant is not doubled:

Listen > listening /**lís** - ten/

Open > opening /**ó** - pen/

Visit > visited /**ví** - sit/

**EXCEPTION:** In British English, we double the final **-l** at the end of a word even if the final syllable is not stressed:

Travel > travelled /**trá** - vel/

Cancel > cancelled /**cán** - cel/