Interesting Sorts

Directions: For each sort, put one word on an index card. Do not keep words separated as they are here. Give students the words and ask them to sort to figure out what the rule is that would help them understand whatever is the target of that sort. As students figure out rules for sorts, they should be able to state that rule. Have them look through books for other words that would either confirm the rule they’ve generated or be an exception to the rule. You can also do this with the whole class by writing each word on a transparency, cutting out the words, and sorting on the overhead projector. Finally, put the rules on large pieces of chart paper with the words underneath. As students find additional words that fit the rule or don’t, they should add those words to the chart paper.

For Plurals of Words Ending in y
babies boys
ponies toys
carries monkeys
funnies keys
tummies enjoys
lobbies days
flies plays

Sort Rule: When the word ends in a y that is immediately preceded by a consonant, change the y to i and add es. When it ends in a y that is immediately preceded by a vowel, just add s.
For Adding -ing
running  riding  boating
hopping  hiding  floating
sitting  biking  sweeping
batting  faking  fighting
swapping  poking  painting
tanning  making  doing
tapping  smiling  treating
bragging  shaving  docking

Sort Rule: When the word ends in the VC pattern and the vowel makes its short sound, double the final consonant before adding -ing. This keeps the vowel sound short. If the word ends in a VCe pattern, drop the e and add -ing. This preserves the VCV pattern that makes the vowel long. If the word ends in a VVC pattern or just a V, just add -ing.

For Choosing Between ch and tch at the End of a Word
each  fetch  bench  couch  exceptions
bleach  witch  wench  pouch  rich
couch  patch  clench  vouch  which
peach  pitch  trench  crouch  such
screech  sketch  French  grouch  much
speech  hitch  drench  slouch
roach  switch  quench

Sort Rule: If the vowel sound in the word is long, as in each, is followed by the letter n as in bench, or makes the sound as in cow, just add ch. If the vowel sound is short but not followed by the letter n, add tch. Exceptions to this include rich, which, such, much.

For Adding -tion Versus -sion
selection  profession
extinction  procession
subtraction  discussion
prediction  succession
traction  depression
contraction  repression

Sort Rule: If the base word ends in ct, add -tion. If the base word ends in s, add -sion.
creation  repulsion
imitation  convulsion
congratulation  expulsion
reproduction
introduction
seduction
deduction

Sort Rule: If the base word ends in te, drop the e and add -ion. If the base word ends in se, drop the e and add -ion. If the base word ends in ce, drop the e, change the c to t and add -ion.

transmission  omission
permission  emission
commission

Sort Rule: If the base word ends in Vt, change the t to s and add -sion.

explosion  inclusion
conclusion  persuasion
erosion

Sort Rule: If the base word ends in de, drop the e and change the d to s, then add -ion.

For Adding -able Versus -ible
dependable  horrible  usable  changeable  amiable
breakable  visible  desirable  manageable  applicable
agreeable  terrible  excusable  noticeable  despicable
profitable  legible  lovable  peaceable  impeccable
remarkable  possible  comparable  serviceable
doable  feasible  trainable

Sort Rule: If the base word can stand alone, add -able. If the base word cannot stand alone, add -ible. If the base word can stand alone but ends in e, drop the e and then add -able. If the base word ends in ce or ge and the c or the g makes its soft sound, then add -able. If the c makes its hard sound, add -able.