

Roll-A-Base



Purpose

- Generate words in morphological **word families** (*words that are related in meaning AND share the structure of the base*)
 - a. using simple free bases with no spelling changes.
 - b. using bases that drop the single final non-syllabic <e>. (See #3 and #8.)
- Generate questions related to this spelling convention for further exploration.

Materials

- Dice – (1) twelve-sided or (2) six-sided or [digital dice](#)
- Paper
- Pencil, pen, or markers
- Roll-a-Base [Table](#) (printed or displayed on a screen)

Instructions

Begin by teaching students about morphological word families. If you haven't started this work yet, begin with another game like the Word Bag Game before attempting this more challenging game.

Roll the dice to choose a base from the Roll-a-Base [Table](#). Write as many words as you can in that family (words that share the structure of the base AND are related in meaning).

For example: If you roll a **5**, write as many words as you can think of in the <call> family. These include <calling> and <called>, but not <telephone> or <callous>.

→ #3 and #8 drop the single final silent <e> when the suffix starts with a vowel
cycle/ + ing → cycling

Some strategies to address this suffixing change are:

- a) tell students about this spelling convention
- b) let them write the words as they wish (e.g. **cycleing*) and make a note to revisit later
- c) point out differences between student-generated responses and formulate a question as a group
- d) guide them through a flowchart that illustrates this convention
- e) look for other words that use this convention - you might start by having student go on a Single, Final, Non-Syllabic <e> Hunt in their favorite books or around your learning environment

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Variations

Supports:

- Scribe the words for your students
- Use different colored pens for bases and affixes
- Provide lists of prefixes or suffixes, or provide a matrix
- Give students repeated prior exposure to these bases and their word “relatives”

Extensions:

- Try your hand at the [Advanced Table](#) below which includes “bound” bases (bases that need an affix to be complete)
- Make your own tables using bases you’ve explored
- Up the challenge by turning this into a Build-A-Word – check out that activity [here!](#)
- Build a word web or matrix with the words
- Create a story with the words you generate

If you get stuck, add it to your Wonder Wall and reach out to us on our [FB page](#) or team@wordsinthewild.org - Our team of word enthusiasts would LOVE to hear the amazing questions you and your students come across!



Roll-A-Base Table

1. plant	4. jump	7. work	10. shop
2. play	5. call	8. move	11. sing
3. cycle	6. learn	9. swim	12. help

Advanced Bases

1. script	4. scribe	7. struct	10. cept
2. spect	5. act	8. image	11. sign
3. form	6. cover	9. fine	12. sect