Word Sort for –ed and –ing roots

This word sort supports knowledge of conventions that govern the addition of –ed to root words. It may be modified for the –ing ending. Students are given three –ed header cards and a set of root verbs. Students sort words according to criteria for adding –ed. Words that drop the –e before adding –ed; words that double a consonant before adding –ied and words that make no change before adding –ed.

For differentiation purposes, a group may be given the roots only and would be asked to do an open word sort, where no set criteria have been given. Initially, they may sort the words alphabetically, according to number of syllables etc. There is no wrong way, as teacher has not been specific. Careful questioning will lead them to the changes that happen to some of the roots when –ed is added. When they have sorted the words in this way, the task is to make appropriate header cards for each group of words.

A more able group might be given the three –ed header cards and their task would be to go on a word hunt for past tense verbs and sort them under the headers. They will need a new header card for past tense verbs that do not end in -ed.

Whole Class activity-students each get one word from the word sort and then move around the class to form groups that represent the criteria for adding -ed.

Word sorts can be done repeatedly for automaticity and may even be speed tested.

Extension Activities that involve writing

Here, students get practice at writing the words, as the ultimate goal is automatic recall. The knowledge that they have gained of the criteria for adding –ed may be practised or assessed by getting students to work individually or in groups to complete the table below. They may source suitable examples in school or library books, they may simply brainstorm or the activity may be given for homework. This is a very good alternative to the traditional Friday Test.

Question for table quiz-How many words can you find in 120 seconds that drop the final –e before adding –ed?

Just add -ed	Drop the final e and add –ed	Double the final consonant and add -ed

Word sorts can be done repeatedly for automaticity and may even be speed tested.

-ed and –ing roots	rain	call	race
push	paint	dance	hand
change	add	play	climb
jump	shout	hate	bake
hope	train	look	sail

Word sorts can be done repeatedly for automaticity and may even be speed tested.

turn	hug	clap	phone
clean	burn	cough	like
wash	Just add -ed	Drop the final e and add –ed	Double the final consonant and add -ed
ing	ing	ing	ed
ed	ed		

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