

"The Third Wish" by Joan Aiken

Build Spelling Skills: Adding the Suffix -ous

Spelling Strategy When adding -ous to a word that ends in silent e, drop the e, and then add -ous: fame - e + ous = famous.

- Exceptions:**
- If the word ends in ce, drop the e and add -ious: malice - e + ious = malicious
 - If the word ends in ge, do not drop the e: outrage + ous = outrageous
 - When adding -ous to a word that ends in a consonant and y, change the y to i and add -ous: victory - y + i + ous = victorious

A. Practice: Change each word in the left column to an adjective by adding the -ous suffix. The circled letters spell a message that tells you what you've been doing lately.

Word	Adjective
1. space	_____ <u> </u> _____
2. industry	_____ <u> </u> _____
3. adventure	_____ <u> </u> _____
4. melody	_____ <u> </u> _____
5. harmony	_____ <u> </u> _____
6. glory	_____ <u> </u> _____
7. envy	_____ <u> </u> _____
8. courage	_____ <u> </u> _____
9. fury	_____ <u> </u> _____
10. Message:	_____

B. Practice: Complete each sentence below by changing the word in parentheses to an adjective with an -ous suffix. Write your new word on the line.

1. Mr. Peters meets a (mystery) _____ little man while driving in the forest.
2. The bachelor reveals that he is (desire) _____ of a beautiful wife.
3. Mr. Peters becomes (rapture) _____ upon seeing the beautiful Leita.
4. Soon there are (vary) _____ indications that Leita is unhappy.
5. Leita finds life as a human less (luxury) _____ than life as a swan.

C. Challenge: The Word Bank word *presumptuous* comes from the word *presume* and has the -ous suffix. Yet *presumptuous* does not follow the rule you learned earlier about words ending in silent e. (If it did, *presume* would become *presumous* or *presumious*.) In your own words, write a rule for changing *presume* to *presumptuous*.
