

***Here's the pattern:***

“i” before “e”

except after “c”

(or when it sounds like “a”

as in “neighbor” and “weigh”).  
\*(in this lesson): or when it sounds like "e" as in "ceiling"

**Q: Which of the "ei" words on this mug follow the pattern, and which are exceptions to the pattern?**

**A: ei words that sound like "a"**

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**A: ei word with "ei" after "c"**

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**A: ei words that are exceptions to the above pattern:**

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**A: ei words that sound like "e" as in "ceiling":**

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***Answer key:***

Q: Which of the "ei" words on this mug follow the pattern, and which are exceptions to the pattern?

A: ei words that sound like "a"

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| neighbor |
| eight |
| beige |
| sleighs |
| weightlifters |

A: ei word with "ei" after "c"

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| --- |
| received |

A: ei words that are exceptions to the above pattern:

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| foreign |
| counterfeit |
| feisty |
| caffeinated |

A: ei words that sound like "e" as in "ceiling":

|  |
| --- |
| Keith |
| weird |

Word origins of these exceptions:  
from www.etymonline.com/word/

foreign: c. 1300, ferren, foran, foreyne, in reference to places, "outside the boundaries of a country;" of persons, "born in another country," from Old French forain, from Medieval Latin foraneus. English spelling altered 17c., perhaps by influence of reign, sovereign.

counterfeit: late 14c. (late 13c. in Anglo-French), countrefet;  from Old French *contrefait* "imitated" (Modern French *contrefait*), past participle of *contrefaire* "imitate"

feisty: *feist* "small dog," earlier *fice*, *fist* (American English, 1805); short for *fysting curre* "stinking cur," attested from 1520s, with present participle of now-obsolete Middle English *fysten*, *fisten* "break wind" (mid-15c.), from Proto-Germanic *\*fistiz* "a fart," said to be from PIE *\*pezd*

caffeinated: from German *Kaffein*, coined by chemist F.F. Runge (1795-1867), apparently from German *Kaffee* "coffee" (see **coffee**) + chemical suffix **-ine** (2) (German *-in*). The form of the English word may be via French *caféine*