

Words with "ei" – Lesson 72

*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"

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

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

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| received |
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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":

|       |
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| Keith |
| weird |

Word origins of these exceptions:

from [www.etymonline.com/word/](http://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 *cafféine*