

Pip's Pattern Hunt: Mastering Suffixes

Learning objective: To understand and apply the spelling rules for adding suffixes -ing, -ed, -er, and -est to words ending in a single consonant letter after a short vowel.

Read the story about Pip the caterpillar. Identify the words that follow the 'double the consonant' rule before adding the suffix. Complete the questions below to help Pip build his word collection.

Pip the caterpillar loves to explore the garden. One sunny morning, he was hopping over a pebble when he suddenly stopped. He saw a ladybird that looked much bigger than the others. 'That is the hottest spot in the garden!' Pip thought. He watched a beetle running across a leaf, which had just batted away a stray petal. Pip felt like the luckiest creature in the world to see such a busy day.

Word bank: hopping · stopped · bigger · hottest · running · batted · thinner · saddest

1. Find two words in the passage that end in '-ing'. Explain why the final consonant has been doubled. (2 marks)

2. Which word in the passage means 'most hot'? Write the root word and explain the spelling change. (2 marks)

3. If Pip were to add the suffix '-ed' to the word 'tap', how would you spell it? Why? (2 marks)

4. Identify the root word for 'bigger' and 'thinner'. What do you notice about the vowel sound in these root words? (2 marks)

5. Write a sentence using the word 'stopped' and another using the word 'hopping'. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Pip the caterpillar sitting in the 'hottest' spot of the garden. Label your drawing with three words that use the double-consonant rule.



Extension challenge: Can you find three more words that follow this rule? Try to create a short poem using at least two of your new words!