

Words ending in -le

apple, staple, title, kettle, trifle, shuffle, cycle, tickle, whistle...

Why do we spell some of these with a single consonant before the -le and some with double letters?

idle / middle
maple / apple
Google / goggle

Read these pairs of words aloud.

The words in the first column have long vowel sounds.
And the second column words have short vowel sounds.

And look at the letters by the -le endings.

The first column words have a single consonant next to the -le.

The words in the second column have a double letter.

We double up letters after a short vowel sound. Remember in the 1:1:1 doubling up rule? We double up the end consonant when we add suffix endings to keep the vowel short:

put - putting

tap - tapped

begin - beginner

idle and middle

idle is a long vowel sound so it has a single consonant -dle

middle is a short vowel sound so we have a double consonant -ddle.

maple and apple

maple has a long vowel sound so spelt -ple

apple is a short vowel sound so -pple

Both these examples have single vowels but one vowel is long the other short.

Google and goggle

Google is long so -ggle

goggle is short so -gle (and in goggle-box and goggle-eyed)

But don't get too stressed if you can't hear the short or long vowel sounds just make sure you keep a beady eye on the patterns.

Let's look at the letter patterns with -le and the exceptions.

√ These consonants are used before the -le : b / c / d / f / g / k / p / st / t / z

x We **never** have these letters before -le: h / m / n / r / v / w

x We **never** have these patterns -hle, -jle, -qle, -qule, -mle, -nle, -rle, -vle, -wle

Long vowel sound letter patterns:

-ble, -dle, -gle, -ple, -tle, -fle, -kle, -sle, -cle

table, idle, Google, staple, title, trifle, sparkle,
measle(s), treacle

-ble

able
table
stable
cable
bible
noble
bauble
marble
warble

-dle

idle
sidle
bridle
cradle
ladle
doodle
noodle
poodle
needle
hurdle
dawdle

-fle

trifle
rifle
stifle

-gle

Google
eagle
beagle
bugle
ogle
burgle
gurgle

-kle

sparkle

-ple

maple
staple
people
steeple
purple

-sle

measle(s)
tousle

(isle and aisle have a silent "s" and the -le isn't a separate syllable - all the words in this rule have two or more syllables)

-tle

title
beetle
the Beatles
startle
hurtle
turtle

-cle

treacle
circle
cycle

Short vowel sound patterns:

-bble, -ddle, -ffle, -ggle, -pple, -ssle, -ttle -zzle

bubble, middle, ruffle, giggle, tipple, hassle, little, dazzle

Note that no letters are doubled if there are two different consonants before -le: ankle, sprinkle, stumble, bundle, gargle, bangle, bungle...

-bble

bobble

wobble

hobble

babble

scrabble

dribble

nibble

scribble

bubble

stubble

hobble

Exceptions with single "b" are: treble, trouble, double

The -mble pattern with 2 consonants so we never double the consonant:

amble, gamble, ramble, scramble

assemble

tumble, grumble, crumble

-ddle

paddle
straddle
saddle
waddle
meddle
peddle
riddle
middle
fiddle
cuddle
huddle
muddle
puddle

Exceptions with single "d" in the -ndle pattern:

candle, handle
bundle
dwindle, swindle
fondle

-ffle

raffle
baffle
snaffle
sniffle
shuffle
scuffle
truffle
muffle
ruffle
duffle
snuffle

-gle

haggle
straggle
struggle
squiggle
giggle
jiggle
wiggle
wriggle
juggle
smuggle
snuggle

Exceptions with the -ngle pattern:

angle, bangle, jangle, strangle
jingle, mingle, single, tingle
bungle, jungle

-pple

dapple
grapple
ripple
nipple
cripple
tipple
stipple
topple
supple
principle

Exception with single "p" is couple

Exceptions with the -mple pattern:

ample, sample, example, trample
temple
simple, dimple, pimple
crumple

<http://www.howtospell.co.uk>

-ssle

hassle

tussle

-ttle

battle

rattle

cattle

kettle

nettle

settle

little

brittle

skittle

bottle

throttle

shuttle

scuttle

Exception: gentle

-zzle (we don't have any single -zle words)

dazzle

frazzle

nozzle

drizzle

frizzle

guzzle

muzzle

nuzzle

puzzle

embezzle

-cle and -kle endings

English words don't end in -ccle or -kkle

So for short vowel sounds we add a "c" before the "k" to make -ckle

tackle
cackle
crackle
shackle
freckle
heckle
speckle
fickle
tickle
pickle
prickle
buckle
chuckle
suckle
knuckle

Some short and long sounds in: -ncle, -kle, -nkle, -rkle,

uncle
circle
rankle
crinkle
sprinkle
twinkle
wrinkle
sparkle

3 syllable words with the -icle and -acle patterns

article	obstacle	
chronicle	miracle	muscle
icicle	pinnacle	silent "c"
particle	spectacle	
cubicle	tentacle	
vehicle	manacle	

-stle letter pattern - the "t" is silent

These are mostly short vowel sounds but in some accents "castle" is long.

castle

wrestle, nestle

whistle, bristle, thistle gristle

jostle apostle

bustle

We only have one word with **-xle**

axle (it's a short vowel sound and should be axxle but we hate doubling up the "x" in English!)

-lle French borrowed words

belle

braille

gazelle

Spelling Rules

When we make these -le words into adverbs we change the end "e" to "y"

idle - idly

single - singly

wobble - wobbly

giggle - giggly

bristle - bristly

prickle - prickly

When we add **-ing** we drop the "e." Remember to drop the "e" with -ing

chuckle - chuckling

giggle - giggling

shuffle - shuffling

stifle - stifling

Word Search. Find the words - this helps your visual memory

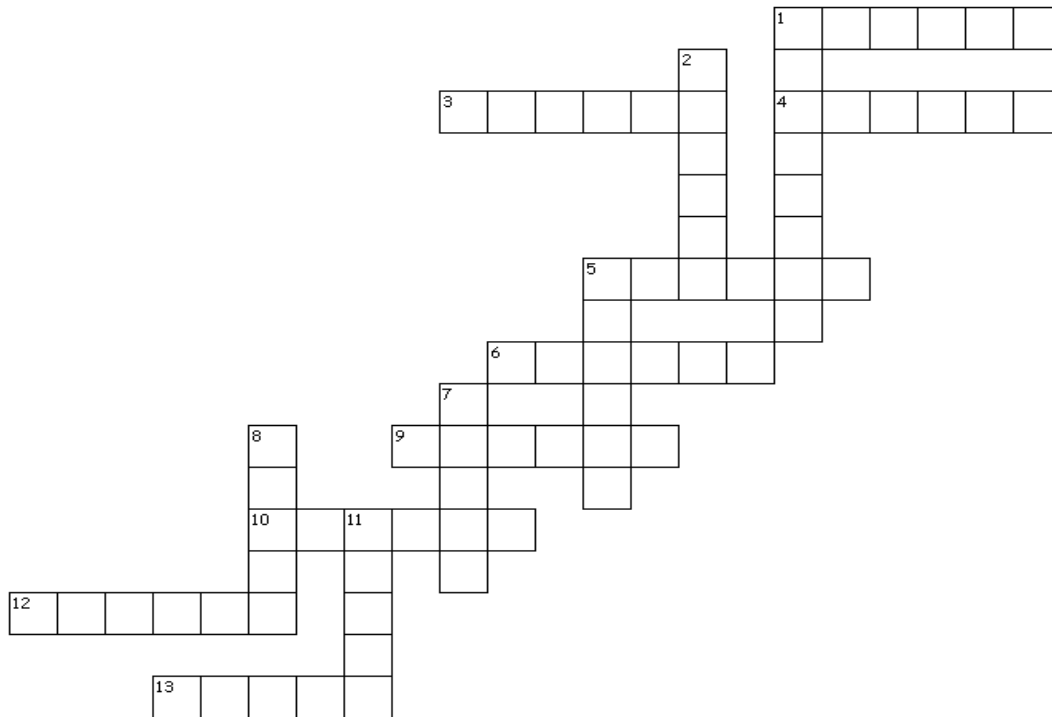
c	d	h	q	r	m	q	t	e	l	e	a	f	p	e	h	o	e	n	b	c	e	o	e	h	r	z	c	g	f
r	f	y	c	p	k	e	p	z	t	d	l	r	w	s	l	f	l	a	w	h	b	l	q	q	h	d	j	w	q
a	i	p	c	e	l	b	b	o	w	r	e	f	t	e	q	j	g	j	y	x	z	h	a	s	s	l	e	i	e
d	w	p	l	c	h	e	g	w	b	i	a	s	f	i	v	a	r	g	t	z	w	s	e	v	f	v	z	l	e
l	b	b	a	h	a	y	n	h	r	z	o	g	a	u	c	g	a	c	a	j	x	a	l	k	o	x	c	l	k
e	p	r	q	i	o	w	l	i	y	z	n	q	e	f	r	l	g	d	w	p	o	o	p	s	u	r	g	b	b
e	i	c	u	d	d	l	e	s	m	l	e	w	f	q	x	m	e	b	d	f	k	y	o	p	i	g	y	b	o
m	g	t	r	a	i	d	q	t	u	e	e	d	t	h	x	e	l	f	f	u	c	s	e	c	i	a	p	l	o
e	b	w	s	u	q	s	r	l	n	l	d	k	q	y	q	s	f	v	i	q	p	m	p	g	h	e	s	u	q
x	l	o	h	s	j	n	t	e	k	b	l	c	f	n	k	l	k	s	s	w	f	c	k	m	q	a	n	m	n
u	k	b	g	n	g	s	e	e	h	s	e	k	e	i	r	r	c	m	p	y	j	w	h	s	m	w	y	h	z
e	j	a	m	z	q	q	l	l	r	k	f	o	z	s	c	t	g	t	o	w	t	w	j	p	c	g	a	p	x
t	l	z	n	u	v	w	p	b	g	c	w	c	y	e	s	k	p	o	r	h	u	v	l	o	s	o	s	u	r
a	n	f	y	s	t	o	p	z	l	n	x	d	e	n	y	r	y	i	m	w	e	e	f	o	y	o	x	a	f
e	m	y	f	o	y	s	a	g	k	k	i	u	s	e	o	e	l	r	r	k	c	k	c	s	u	k	g	c	f
a	h	i	t	a	d	p	k	u	y	q	n	s	l	p	g	z	d	i	b	d	x	y	r	j	v	w	v	d	e
d	l	e	d	p	r	p	z	b	v	k	z	v	i	r	i	u	g	u	w	e	c	n	o	b	l	e	f	l	i
q	w	z	m	d	w	e	i	u	o	d	r	c	v	z	d	g	b	t	y	l	o	v	t	a	j	r	n	x	m
b	k	l	j	a	l	f	v	r	s	n	d	i	x	k	l	b	h	y	e	t	m	z	e	q	s	s	t	n	y
j	f	m	d	c	o	e	d	b	s	t	f	c	y	e	l	c	k	f	u	t	p	e	c	h	u	c	k	l	e
i	g	d	n	a	u	c	o	k	r	i	j	v	i	e	y	w	c	h	d	i	e	l	t	n	e	g	e	p	f
o	l	u	v	e	l	d	o	o	n	b	r	e	r	b	z	m	a	v	d	r	e	l	b	a	c	m	z	o	r
e	v	h	w	a	b	a	r	w	f	x	k	c	x	p	s	b	s	z	l	b	t	k	q	p	g	k	n	r	c
w	k	l	x	n	n	g	e	h	l	c	x	b	i	a	w	b	t	h	k	h	y	k	e	a	e	x	g	u	c
g	z	n	h	u	p	f	l	l	y	i	u	g	k	z	m	c	l	r	n	v	g	r	u	m	b	l	e	l	f
j	d	f	v	y	l	i	k	i	x	t	t	y	f	c	w	p	e	z	l	w	o	f	d	t	b	m	p	c	q
o	v	r	g	n	m	l	c	g	c	l	p	t	x	a	f	z	l	v	l	s	e	f	l	m	z	x	i	a	c
w	l	l	x	b	e	i	i	k	a	p	e	v	l	l	s	t	q	e	q	m	s	d	b	s	s	i	h	c	m
s	c	b	r	u	w	v	t	f	l	l	e	o	n	e	q	u	k	d	o	z	e	k	a	r	d	l	w	k	h
i	j	m	h	t	k	e	t	t	l	e	j	b	h	d	h	j	n	x	u	w	e	o	y	y	n	o	n	b	d

apple
article
brittle ✓
bubble
cable
castle
chuckle
circle
cradle
cuddle
cycle
dazzle
drizzle
example

gargle
gentle
giggle
grumble ✓
hassle
kettle
little
maple
middle
miracle
needle
noble
noodle
people
pickle

raffle
ruffle
sample
scuffle
single
stumble
tickle
uncle
waddle
whistle
wobble
wiggle

Crossword write in the squares with words ending in **-le** from the clues below



Across

- 1. When something is easy to do.
- 3. Put your arms round someone and hold them close to show that you like or love them
- 4. You buy a ticket and if it's chosen you win a prize.
- 5. An insect.
- 6. You boil water in this.
- 9. Only one.
- 10. A baby sleeps in this.
- 12. A small pool of water on the ground after rain.
- 13. A piece of fruit.

Down

- 1. To write something quickly and carelessly.
- 2. The plural of person.
- 5. This is a glass or plastic container to hold liquid.
- 7. Another word for gun.
- 8. Auntie and _____
- 11. The part of the body where your foot joins your leg.

Crossword answers

Across

1. When something is easy to do - **simple**
3. Put your arms round someone and hold them close to show that you like or love them - **cuddle**
4. You buy a ticket and if it's chosen you win a prize - **raffle**
5. An insect - **beetle**
6. You boil water in this - **kettle**
9. Only one - **single**.
10. A baby sleeps in this - **cradle**.
12. A small pool of water on the ground after rain - **puddle**.
13. A piece of fruit - **apple**.

Down

1. To write something quickly and carelessly - **scribble**.
2. The plural of person - **people**.
5. This is a glass or plastic container to hold liquid - **bottle**.
7. Another word for gun - **rifle**.
8. Auntie and **uncle**
11. The part of the body where your foot joins your leg - **ankle**.