

**Lesson Thirty-two**  
**One Kind of Change: Adding Letters**

- 1 One suffix *-er* adds the meaning "more" to words. Another suffix *-er* adds the meaning "one that does"
- 2 The suffix that adds the meaning "most" to words is -est
- 3 The following rule is called the Rule of Simple Addition

Unless you know some reason to make a change, when you add elements together to spell a word, do not make any changes at all. Simply add the elements together.

4 Now we are going to look at one of those reasons for making a change when we add elements together. Read these sentences and sort the seven bold-face words into the groups below:

- a. Those are **big** oranges.
- b. They are **bigger** than the oranges we had before.
- c. They are the **biggest** oranges I have ever seen.
- d. That is **hot** soup.
- e. It is **hotter** than the soup we had before.
- f. It is the **hottest** soup I have ever eaten.
- g. She is a good **swimmer**.

| Words that end with <i>-er</i> | Words that end with <i>-est</i> | Words that don't end with <i>-er</i> or <i>-est</i> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>bigger</i>                  | <i>biggest</i>                  | <i>big</i>  |
| <i>hotter</i>                  | <i>hottest</i>                  | <i>hot</i>  |
| <i>swimmer</i>                 |                                 |   |

5 In the column labeled "Words" below write the words you found that end with either *-er* or *-est*.

Each of these five words is made up of two elements: a free base and a suffix. But when you take the two elements apart, you find an extra letter right in the middle. Divide each of the four words into its two elements and show the extra letter — just as

