Using \(y\) and \(i\)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{babyhood} & \quad \text{happiness} \\
\text{plywood} & \quad \text{pliable} \\
\text{tries} & \quad \text{trying} \\
\text{defies} & \quad \text{defying} \\
\text{denial} & \quad \text{denying}
\end{align*}
\]

Generally, use the letter \(i\) within words and use \(y\) at the ends of words.

Except: When \(y\) is preceded by a vowel letter:

\[
\text{played, grayness.}
\]

When the suffix begins with \(i\):

\[
\text{muddying, babyish.}
\]

When the word is a monosyllable and the suffix begins with a consonant:

\[
\text{slyness, wryly}
\]

Notice that final \(y\) following a consonant changes to \(ie\) when the suffix \(-s\) is added:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{try} + s & \quad \Rightarrow \text{tries} \\
\text{comply} + s & \quad \Rightarrow \text{complies} \\
\text{belfry} + s & \quad \Rightarrow \text{belfries}
\end{align*}
\]

Similarly, final \(ie\) changes to \(y\) when \(-ing\) is added:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{die} + \text{-ing} & \quad \Rightarrow \text{dying}
\end{align*}
\]

Exercise A: \(y\) and \(i\)
Put *y* or *i* in the blanks below to form correctly spelled words.

1. obe__ing  
2. prett__ness  
3. lad__like  
4. sill__er  
5. monke__ed  
6. bugg__whip  
7. scuff__est  
8. heav__ly  
9. ic__ly  
10. laz__ness  
11. bush__est  
12. funn__er  
13. Ma__day  
14. likel__hood  
15. sh__ness  

Exercise B:  *y* and *i*

1. imply + -s = ______  
2. defy + -s = ______  
3. university + -s = ______  
4. party + -s = ______  
5. baby + -s = ______  
6. die + -ing = ______  
7. outlie + -ing = ______  
8. belie + -ing = ______  
9. untie + -ing = ______  
10. vie + -ing = ______  

Notes:
The letter $y$ does occur within a few word parts borrowed from Greek and still spelled with $y$ representing the Greek letter upsilon. This spelling occurs in a few common morphemes as $hydr-$, $psych-$, and $dynam-$. It is used much more frequently in the vocabulary of science, where we can find such morphemes as $bryo-$, $cyan-$, $dactyl-$, $cyto-$, $cys-$, $phyt-$, $gyn-$, $gryo-$, $kym-$ and others. Although the number of words showing this spelling is large, the number of morphemes is small. We can spell them best by learning to recognize morphemes.

The letter $i$ occurs at the ends of word only rarely:

1. It marks the plural of Latin words: $alumnus$-$alumni$, $stimulus$-$stimuli$.

2. It marks the plural of certain Italian words: $graffito$-$graffiti$, $concerto$-$concerti$. It is also used in other Italian names of foods: $spumoni$, $canelloni$, $spaghetti$, $macaroni$, etc.

3. It occurs in a scattered list of recently borrowed and invented words: $taxi$, $beri$-$beri$, $yeti$, $khaki$, $mufti$, etc.