

“I Before E”

MORGAN and ALEX are looking at their spelling homework.

MORGAN

Spelling doesn't make any sense!
“Way” like “no way” is spelled right,
but if I ‘weigh’ myself it's spelled
w-e-i-g-h. G-H!?!

ALEX

It's weird, but it's right. “I before E
except after C, or when sounded like
‘A’ as in neighbor and weigh.”

Morgan glares at Alex.

MORGAN

You made up a rhyme for this?

ALEX

Somebody did. Weird, huh?

MORGAN

Ok, riddle me this, Batman. If the
“gh” in weigh sounds like nothing,
why does it sound like ‘F’ in
‘enough’?

“I Before E” (2)

ALEX

I don't know. Why do they use a
“ph” to make the “F” sound in
telephone?

MORGAN

That's what I'm talking about! At
least in math, $2+4$ always equals 6.
Not sometimes, all the time! In
spelling, ‘gh’ can sound like F, but so
can ‘ph’, and hey! Sometimes an
F sound is spelled with... an F!
Who invented this stuff?!

ALEX

Well, it's called “English” so take a
guess.

MORGAN

That figures. Anybody else would
spell “tea” t-e-e.

(English accent)

“What say, my lord; why not throw an
‘A’ in there just to mix it up a bit?”

ALEX

Ok, ok. You made your point. You
want to study math?

"I Before E" (3)

MORGAN

No.

ALEX

Ok then. Let's keep going. Spell 'knock'. Here's a hint: the first "k" is silent.

MORGAN

This is hopeless.

Morgan drops face-down in her book. She quits.

ALEX

Wait 'til we get to "imagination". The "t-i" sounds like an "s-h".

Morgan lifts her face just long enough to give an evil stare at Alex, then, drops it back down.

