



Spelling Rule Algorithm

i before e except after c

Module Aim

An activity to reinforce spelling rules using computing science concepts. This could be used as a homework activity or as an alternative strategy within a literacy lesson. Pupils convert a spelling rule into a flowchart algorithm or use a flowchart algorithm to work out which spelling to use.

**Time to complete
each activity**
10-15 minutes

Computer Science Concepts

An algorithm is a step by step list of instructions or rules to accomplish something
Rules are easy things to convert into algorithms
Conditional Selection in a flow chart algorithm is represented as a decision diamond

Converting Algorithm to Code

All of these algorithms can be converted into code using a programming language, such as Python, that works well with string manipulation.
For primary pupils these are best left as algorithms.

Variety

Some rules have more than one activities so you may match them to pupils abilities or your time needs.

Page 2

Pupils have to part complete the flowchart before testing it with ie or ei words.

Page 3

Pupils only need to use the flowchart to test the words.

Page 4

Answer Sheet

Literacy Aims

Further pupils understanding of the spelling rules

National Curriculum Programs of Study

Pupils should be taught to:

- design, write and debug programs that accomplish specific goals, including controlling or simulating physical systems; solve problems by decomposing them into smaller parts
- use sequence, selection, and repetition in programs; work with variables and various forms of input and output
- **use logical reasoning to explain how some simple algorithms work and to detect and correct errors in algorithms and programs**

i before e except after c



Rules

I before e except directly after c
If the ie or ei sounds like an 'ee'
then you can use the i
before e except after c rule

1, Transfer the questions

into the correct decision diamonds

Questions

Does the ie or ei sound like ee?

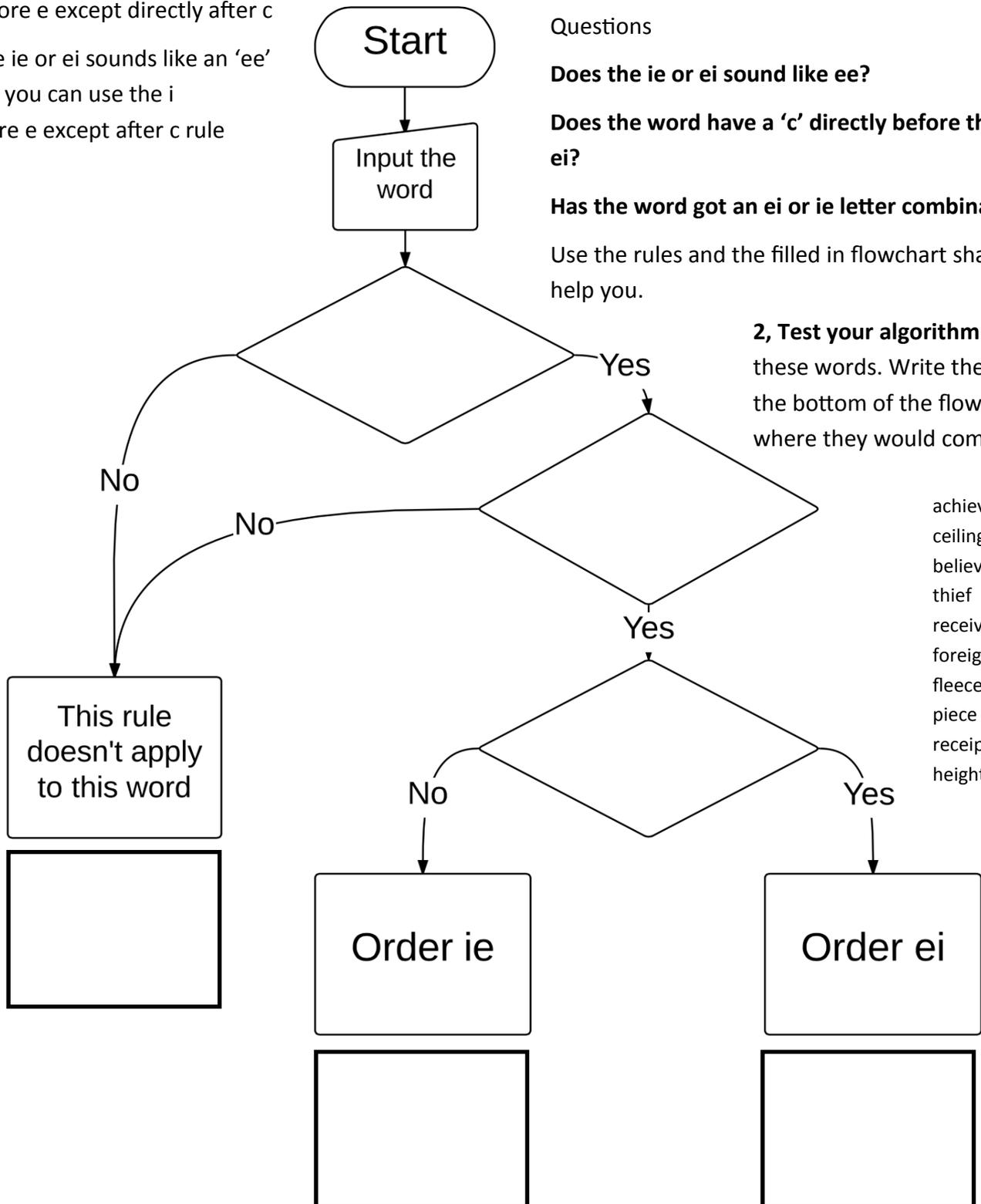
Does the word have a 'c' directly before the ie or ei?

Has the word got an ei or ie letter combination?

Use the rules and the filled in flowchart shapes to help you.

2, Test your algorithm with these words. Write them at the bottom of the flowchart where they would come out.

achieve
ceiling
believe
thief
receive
foreign
fleece
piece
receipt
height



There are a few exceptions to this algorithm such as seize and weird.

i before e except after c



Rules

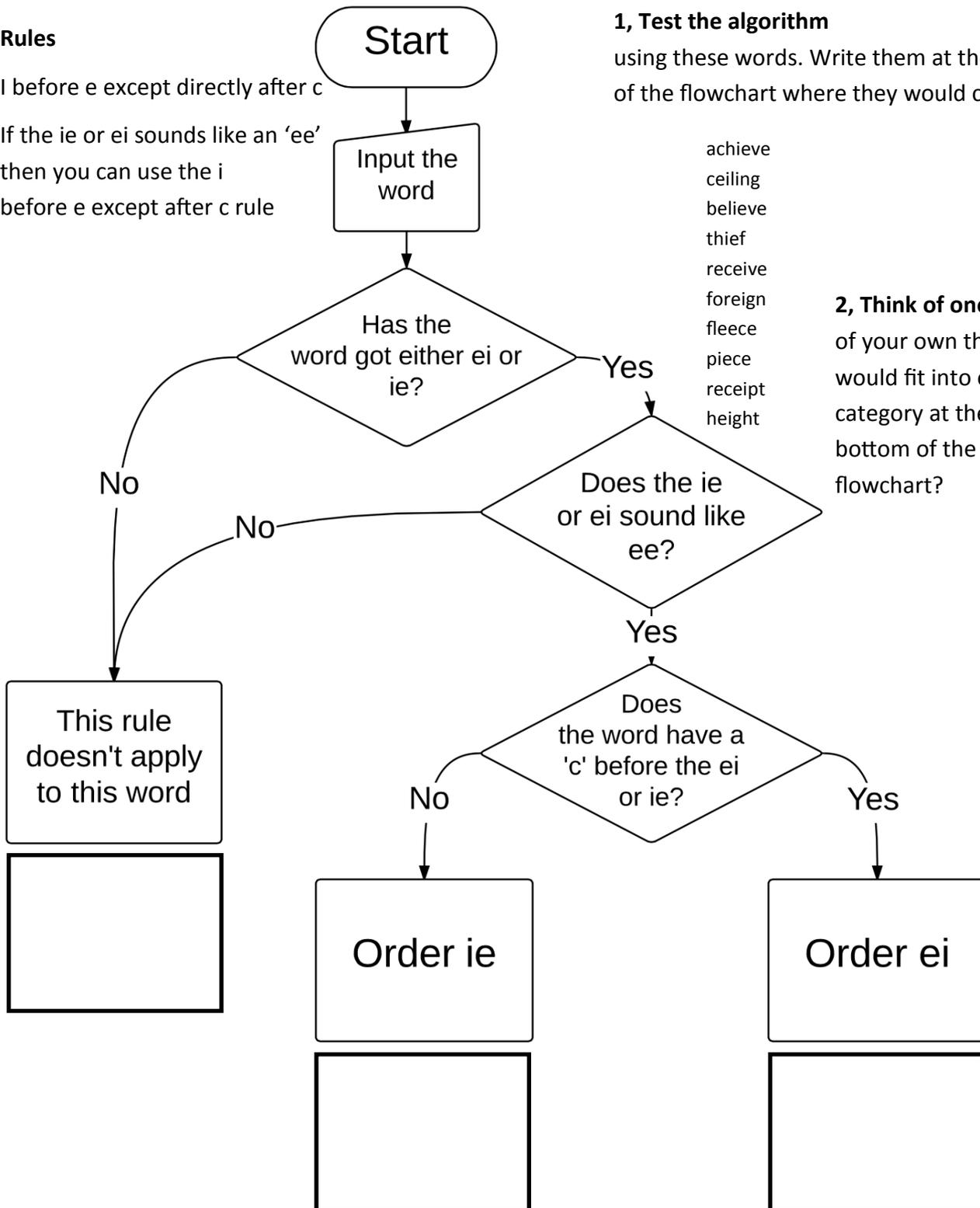
I before e except directly after c
If the ie or ei sounds like an 'ee'
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before e except after c rule

1, Test the algorithm

using these words. Write them at the bottom of the flowchart where they would come out.

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2, Think of one word
of your own that
would fit into each
category at the
bottom of the
flowchart?



There are a few exceptions to this algorithm such as seize and weird.

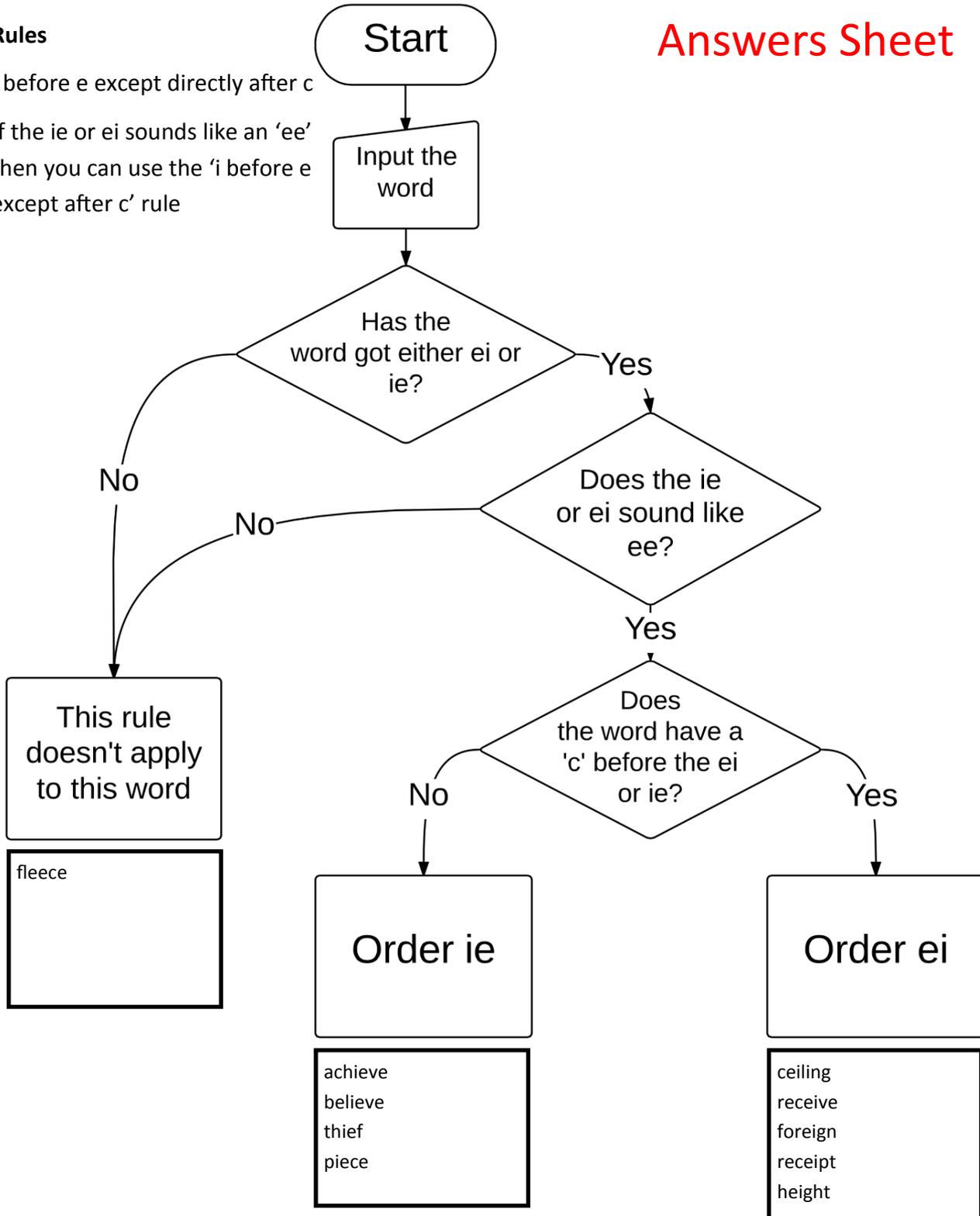
i before e except after c



Answers Sheet

Rules

i before e except directly after c
If the ie or ei sounds like an 'ee'
then you can use the 'i before e
except after c' rule



achieve
ceiling
believe
thief
receive
foreign
fleece
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There are a few exceptions to this algorithm such as seize and weird.