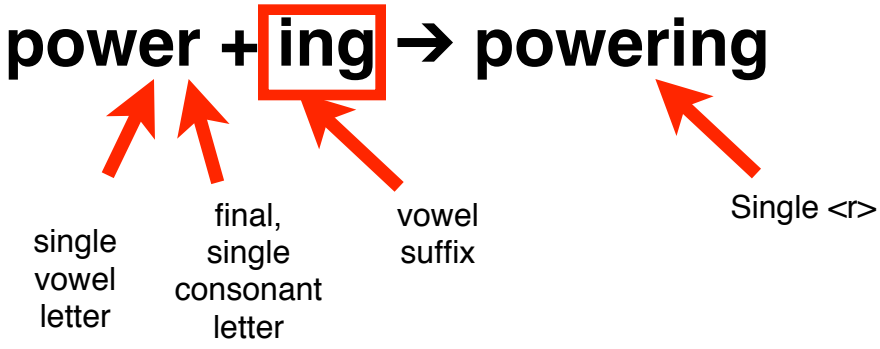
Empowering our understanding with Jake's question about the spelling of <powering>

Jake from Grade 2 came by my office the other day before school started to tell me about the latest interesting spelling he had noticed.

"I'm wondering about the word <powering>. Why doesn't it have a doubled <r>?"

What a great way to start my day!

We discussed the source of his question. which was much easier to understand with a word sum.



Jake understood that when a vowel suffix (like <-ing>) is added to a word (like <stop>) with a final, single consonant letter, and just one vowel letter immediately before it, that final consonant is doubled.

stop(p) + ing → stopping

So why doesn't the <r> double in <powering>?

There must be a good reason!

Here are some word sums to consider…

father + ing → fathering

gossip + ed → gossiped

garden + er → gardener

But….

commit(t) + ee → committee

forget(t) + ing → forgetting

begin(n) + er → beginner

It's a good time to dive into a good Real Spelling Theme on consonant doubling...