

**I Before E Except After C**  
**Scripted by Rachelle Pankey**

**Parts(3): I, E, C**

*I and E are already positioned—I on stage right and E on stage left. They may be standing or seated on chairs or a bench. Each actor has a placard with his or her letter printed largely and clearly on it. These placards can be hung around the actor's neck with yarn or string or pinned to the actor's shirt.*

I: Hi! I'm I.

E: And I'm E. We're good friends.

I: When we get together, we say...(I and E together) /ē/!

E: We make the /ē/ sound in words like "field" and "cookie." (shows words on cards)

I: That's right. We're a team. "IE" says /ē/. (They agree; high five. "Yeah!" "That's right!" ad lib)

*C enters and stands or sits on I's right side. I looks at C. They greet each other with a slight nod.*

I: (whispering to E, slightly uncomfortable) Do you know this letter?

E: Oh! That's my friend C. Switch places with me for a second please.

E moves over beside C. I looks slightly unhappy about trading places.

E: Hi, C! It's great to "see" you.

C: Hi, E! I "see" what you did there. It's great to see you too.

I: (slightly irritated) Wait a minute! You changed the team. Now we're "EI" instead of "IE."

E: That's okay. We can say /ē/ whether we're "IE" or "EI." When C is here, we'll be "EI." When C isn't here, we'll be "IE."

I: Really? We can say /ē/ whether we're "IE" or "EI"?

C: Surely! Plus, together we can make words like “receive” and “ceiling.” (shows words)

E: So we can say /ē/ when it’s just us as “IE.” We can also say /ē/ when we’re “EI” after C.

I: (relieved) Ok, that sounds good. Wait a minute. Let me try one thing. (I moves to C’s right so that the letters are now “ICE.”) How about now? When C is in the middle, do we still say /ē/?

E: No, now we spell “ice.”

C: Cool.

All: I before E except after C.