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What is a suffix

Welcome to our mini teaching guide on suffixes! In this post, you'll find many different tools to help you teach suffixes to your child, as well as downloadable resources and activities. Let's dig in! What Is a Suffix? A suffix is a word part that is placed at the end of a base word. Common suffixes include ED, ING, and EST. Take a look at more suffix examples below. A suffix often transforms a word into a new part of speech. In the examples above, baby (a noun) is changed to babyish (an adjective); run (a verb) is changed to runner (a noun). The Four Most Common Suffixes The most common suffixes are S, ES, ED, and ING. These four suffixes are the most useful for beginning readers and spellers to learn because they appear frequently in words, and their meanings are easy to understand and remember. Interested in seeing more suffixes? Here's a list of 30 common suffixes you can download and print. Adding Suffixes Is Different from Adding Prefixes When adding a prefix to a word (Check out our mini guide on teaching prefixes!), you simply add the prefix to the beginning of the base word (as in unhappy). The spelling of the base word never changes. Super easy, right? But adding a suffix to a word isn't quite as straightforward. That's because when you add a suffix, the base word often changes. For example: Thankfully, there are some solid guidelines to follow when adding suffixes to words. Before we dive into those rules, though, let's take a quick look at the two types of suffixes. Two Types of Suffixes You may have noticed on the free download that the suffixes are divided into two categories. It's important for kids to recognize whether a suffix is a consonant suffix or a vowel suffix since the rules for adding them to base words are different. Rules for Adding Suffixes Rule 1: Add a consonant suffix directly to the base word. Rule 2: Check the base word before adding a vowel suffix. Here are the first three guidelines we teach for adding vowel suffixes. If the base word ends in two consonants, just add the vowel suffix. If the base word has 1 syllable, 1 short vowel, and 1 final consonant, double the final consonant before adding the vowel suffix. (We teach this as the "1-1-1 Rule." Although it may sound complicated, this rule is actually quite easy to follow when you have an understanding of syllable division rules.) If the base word ends in a Silent E , drop the E before adding the vowel suffix. (Again, this is an easy rule to understand: you don't want to have two E's in a row, so you have to drop the first E.) Rule 3: If the base word ends in a single Y, change the Y to an I before adding the suffix. (This rule applies to both consonant suffixes and vowel suffixes.) There are more rules regarding vowel suffixes, but they apply to a smaller number of words. We teach them thoroughly and incrementally in All About Reading and All About Spelling, with plenty of hands-on practice. What does hands-on practice look like? We use letter tiles for demonstration, and then we move on to interesting activity sheets! Printable Activities for Learning about Suffixes Would you like to see some examples? Here are a few great suffix activities from All About Reading and All About Spelling. Have you started teaching suffixes to your child yet? How is it going? Let me know in the comments below! By the end of this section, you will be able to: Identify the meanings of common prefixes. Become familiar with common suffix rules. The English language contains an enormous and ever-growing number of words. Enhancing your vocabulary by learning new words can seem overwhelming, but if you know the common prefixes and suffixes of English, you will understand many more words. Mastering common prefixes and suffixes is like learning a code. Once you crack the code, you can not only spell words more correctly but also recognize and perhaps even define unfamiliar words. A prefix is a word part added to the beginning of a word to create a new meaning. Study the common prefixes in Table 3.2 "Common Prefixes". Tip The main rule to remember when adding a prefix to a word is not to add letters or leave out any letters. See Table 3.2 "Common Prefixes" for examples of this rule, Table 3.2 Common Prefixes Prefix Meaning Example dis not, opposite of dis + satisfied = dissatisfied mis wrongly mis + spell = misspell un not un + acceptable = unacceptable re again re + election = reelection inter between inter + related = interrelated pre before pre + pay = prepay non not non + sense = nonsense super above super + script = superscript sub under sub + merge = submerge anti against, opposing anti + bacterial = antibacterial Suffixes A suffix is a word part added to the end of a word to create a new meaning. Study the suffix rules in the following boxes. Rule 1 When adding the suffixes -ness and -ly to a word, the spelling of the word does not change. Examples: dark + ness = darkness scholar + ly = scholarly Exceptions to Rule 1 When the word ends in y, change the y to i before adding -ness and -ly. Examples: ready + ly = readily happy + ness = happiness Rule 2 When the suffix begins with a vowel, drop the silent e in the root word. Examples: care + ing = caring use + able = usable Exceptions to Rule 2 When the word ends in ce or ge, keep the silent e if the suffix begins with a or o. Examples: replace + able = replaceable courage + ous = courageous Rule 3 When the suffix begins with a consonant, keep the silent e in the original word. Examples: care + ful = careful care + less = careless Exceptions to Rule 3 Examples: true + ly = truly argue + ment = argument Rule 4 When the word ends in a consonant plus y, change the y to i before any suffix not beginning with i. Examples: sunny + er = sunnier hurry + ing = hurrying Rule 5 When the suffix begins with a vowel, double the final consonant only if (1) the word has only one syllable or is accented on the last syllable and (2) the word ends in a single vowel followed by a single consonant. Examples: tan + ing = tanning (one syllable word) regret + ing = regretting (The accent is on the last syllable; the word ends in a single vowel followed by a single consonant.) cancel + ed = canceled (The accent is not on the last syllable.) prefer + ed = preferred Key Takeaways A prefix is a word part added to the beginning of a word that changes the word's meaning. A suffix is a word part added to the end of a word that changes the word's meaning. Learning the meanings of prefixes and suffixes will help expand your vocabulary, which will help improve your writing. Contents Adjectives and adverbs Adjectives Adverbs Adverbs Adverb phrases Adverbs and adverb phrases: position Adverbs and adverb phrases: typical errors Adverbs: forms Adverbs: functions Adverbs: types Comparison: adverbs (worse, more easily) Degree adverbs Time adverbs Adverbs as discourse markers (anyway, finally) Adverbs as short responses (definitely, certainly) Using adjectives and adverbs Easily confused words Above or over? Across, over or through? Advice or advise? Affect or effect? All or every? All or whole? Allow, permit or let? Almost or nearly? Alone, lonely, or lonesome? Along or alongside? Already, still or yet? Also, as well or too? Alternate(ly), alternative(ly) Although or though? Altogether or all together? Amount of, number of or quantity of? Any more or anymore? Anyone, anybody or anything? Apart from or except for? Arise or rise? Around or round? Arouse or rouse? As or like? As, because or since? As, when or while? Been or gone? Begin or start? Beside or besides? Between or among? Born or borne? Bring, take and fetch Can, could or may? Classic or classical? Come or go? Consider or regard? Consist, comprise or compose? Content or contents? Different from, different to or different than? Do or make? Down, downwards or downward? During or for? Each or every? East or eastern; north or northern? Economic or economical? Efficient or effective? Elder, eldest or older, oldest? End or finish? Especially or specially? Except or except for? Expect, hope or wait? Experience or experiment? Fall or fall down? Far or a long way? Farther, farthest or further, furthest? Fast, quick or quickly? Fell or felt? Female or feminine; male or masculine? Finally, at last, lastly or in the end? First, firstly or at first? Fit or suit? Following or the following? For or since? Forget or leave? Full or filled? Fun or funny? Get or go? Grateful or thankful? Hear or listen (to)? High or tall? Historic or historical? House or home? How is ...? or What is ...? like? If or when? If or whether? Ill or sick? Imply or infer? In the way or on the way? It's or its? Late or lately? Lay or lie? Lend or borrow? Less or fewer? Look at, see or watch? Low or short? Man, mankind or people? Maybe or may be? Maybe or perhaps? Nearest or next? Never or not ... ever? Nice or sympathetic? No doubt or without doubt? No or not? Nowadays, these days or today? Open or opened? Opportunity or possibility? Opposite or in front of? Other, others, the other or another? Out or out of? Permit or permission? Person, persons or people? Pick or pick up? Play or game? Politics, political, politician or policy? Price or prize? Principal or principle? Quiet or quite? Raise or rise? Remember or remind? Right or rightly? Rob or steal? Say or tell? So that or in order that? Sometimes or sometime? Sound or noise? Speak or talk? Such or so? There, their or they're? Towards or toward? Wait or wait for? Wake, wake up or awaken? Worth or worthwhile? Nouns, pronouns and determiners Determiners Nouns Noun phrases Pronouns Pronouns Each other, one another Everyone, everybody, everything, everywhere It Gender No one, nobody, nothing, nowhere One One and one's Pronouns: personal (I, me, you, him, it, they, etc.) Pronouns: possessive (my, mine, your, yours, etc.) Pronouns: reflexive (myself, themselves, etc.) Pronouns: indefinite (-body, -one, -thing, -where) Pronouns: one, you, we, they Relative pronouns Questions: interrogative pronouns (what, who) Someone, somebody, something, somewhere That Quantifiers A bit All Any Both Either Enough Least, the least, at least Less Little, a little, few, a few Lots, a lot, plenty Many More Most, the most, mostly Much, many, a lot of, lots of: quantifiers No, none and none of Plenty Some Some and any Question words How What When Where Which Who, whom Whose Why Using nouns Prepositions and particles Using English Collocation Functions Numbers Dates Measurements Number Time People and places Place and movement Abroad Away and away from Back Inside Nearby Outside Up Politeness Reported speech Sexist language Spoken English Types of English Useful phrases Writing Verbs Tenses and time Verb forms Verb patterns Phrasal verbs and multi-word verbs Passive voice Modal verbs and modality Conditionals and wishes Using verbs Table of irregular verbs Words, sentences and clauses Word classes and phrase classes Word formation Word order and focus Conjunctions and linking words Clauses and sentences Relative clauses Negation Negation Neither, neither ... nor and not ... either Not Neither, neither ... nor and not ... either Not Forming negative statements, questions and imperatives Negation: two negatives Negative clauses with any, anybody, anyone, anything, anywhere Negation in non-finite clauses Negative prefixes and suffixes Negative adverbs: hardly, seldom, etc. Negation: emphasising Negation of think, believe, suppose, hope Questions A suffix is a letter or group of letters added to the end of a word to change its meaning or function. These useful, shapeshifting tools can be as small as -s and -ed or can be larger additions such as -ation and -ious. Learn more about suffixes by checking out a clear definition and exploring a suffixes list. suffix meaning example chart A suffix is a type of affix. Suffixes change the meaning or grammatical function of a base word or root word. For example, by adding the suffixes -er and -est to the adjective fond, you create the comparative fonder and the superlative fondest. Explore a suffixes list to broaden your vocabulary. Like prefixes, there are many suffixes used in the English language to create a rich vocabulary. Take the suffix -ist for example, by adding this to a word, you have changed the word to describe a person who performs or practices something. So, art becomes artist, a person skilled in a particular art. Let's look at the verb read. This verb can be turned into a noun by adding the suffix -er so read becomes reader. Likewise, by adding the suffix -able, the verb read now becomes the adjective readable. Check out a list of noun, adjective, verb, and adverb suffix examples. Nouns are used to identify a person, place, thing, or idea. Dive into a list of noun suffixes along with their meaning and examples. SuffixMeaningExample-eindividual does somethingreferee, employee, trustee, retiree-eerengaged in something, associated with somethingauctioneer, volunteer, engineer, profiteer-ersomeone who performs an action helper, teacher, preacher, dancer-ionthe action or process ofcelebration, opinion, decision, revision-ismtheory, act or beliefcriticism, humanism, professionalism, patriotism-itythe state or condition ofprobability, equality, abnormality, civility-menthe action or result ofmovement, retirement, abandonment, establishment-nessa state or qualityofondness, awareness, kindness, darkness-ora person who is somethingdistributor, investigator, translator, conductor-sionstate or beingdepression, confusion, tension, compulsion-shipposition heldworship, ownership, courtship, internship-thestate or qualitystrength, labyrinth, depth, warmth Since you can have noun suffixes, it only makes sense that you can have adjective suffixes too. These suffixes work to make words that you can use to describe things. SuffixMeaningExample-able, -iblecapable of beingpreventable, adaptable, predictable, credible-alpertaining totheatrical, natural, criminal, seasonal-anticlinal to or tending tovigilant, defiant, brilliant, reliant-aryof or relating tobudgetary, planetary, military, honorary-fulfull of or notable ofgrateful, beautiful, wonderful, fanciful-icrelating toiconic, organic, heroic, poetic-ious, -oushaving qualities ofgracious, cautious, humorous, fabulous-ivequality or nature ofcreative, expensive, expressive, pensive-lesswithout somethinghopeless, faultless, fearless, restless-made up of or characterized bybrainy, fruity, tasty, grouchy In a sentence, you use a verb to tell the action or state. For example, you laughed at the joke. See a few different verb suffixes that you might use in your sentences. SuffixMeaningExample-edpast-tense version of a verblaughed, climbed, called, missed-enbecomesoften, fasten, lengthen, strengthen-eration or process, making an adjective comparativefaster, bigger, fuller, longer-ingverb form/present participle of an actionlaughing, swimming, driving, writing-ize, -iseto cause or to becomeemorialize, authorize, commercialize, advertise Information in a sentence is key. Therefore adverbs are important because they convey information about adjectives or verbs. Check out these adverb suffix examples at work. SuffixMeaningExample-lyin what manner something is being donebravely, simply, honestly, gladly-wardin a certain directionbackward, wayward, awkward, afterward-wisem relation toclockwise, edgewise, lengthwise, otherwise Suffixes create variety in the English language. They provide endless ways to express our thoughts, feelings, findings, and emotions. They morph nouns into adjectives and verbs into nouns. They express deeper qualities, providing layers of color and intrigue required by writers. Be aware that sometimes adding a suffix to a base word changes the spelling of the new word, as in create/creative. To help you learn why and when this happens read suffix spelling rules. B.A. English & Psychology

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