115 Suffixes

Suffixes are small groups of letters which can be added to the end of many words to give them different meanings.

See also:

Types of verbs 49

Singular and plural nouns 69 Adjectives 92

115.1 SUFFIXES

Suffixes attach to the end of a word to change its meaning. Suffixes usually give the same change in meaning to each word they attach to.

-able = possible to be

It's useful to set yourself achievable targets at work.



-ful = full of

The principal was so pleased that the play was successful.



-ist = someone who

My friend Jamie is the best artist I know.



-less = without

I don't like the food in the cafeteria. It is tasteless.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

Hugo is very funny and kind. He's a really likeable guy.



I can paint the house in a day. It's definitely doable.



Sarah is a violinist. She plays in her local orchestra.



Now that I've passed my exams, I am hopeful for the future.



What a boring lecture. Being there was pointless.



I am a perfectionist. My work takes me a long time.



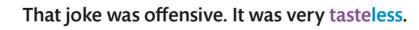
USING SUFFIXES

Some words can take more than one kind of suffix to give different meanings.

The best jokes are in good taste.



That joke was hilarious. It was very tasteful.



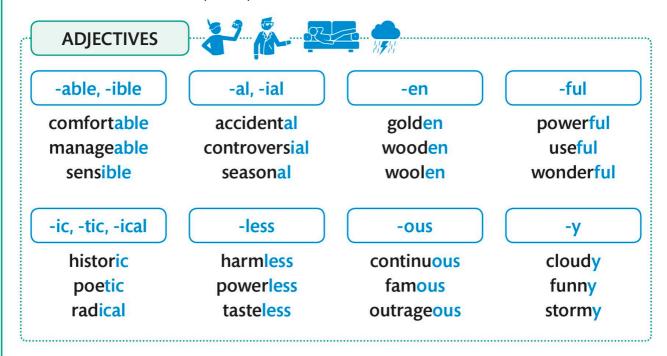


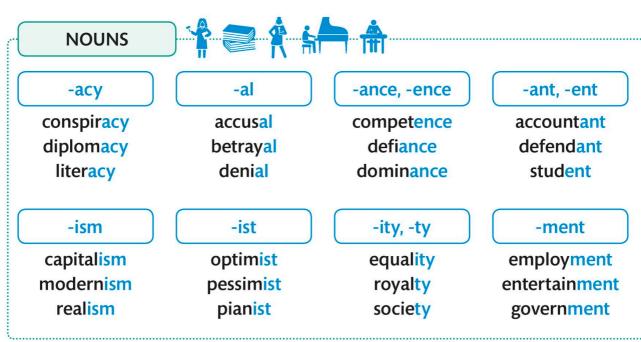
COMMON SUFFIXES

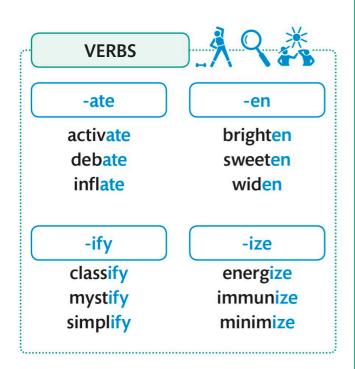
SUFFIX	MEANING	SAMPLE SENTENCE
-able, -ible	able to be	It is perfectly acceptable to submit your essays online.
-al, -ial	having characteristics of	The verdict was based entirely on circumstantial evidence.
-ance, -ence	state of	Male lions fight each other to assert their dominance.
-ate	become	You need to activate your credit card before you can use it.
-dom	place or state of being	Older children can be given a greater amount of freedom.
-en	become	They are planning to widen the roads to reduce congestion.
-er, -or	person who performs an action	Shakespeare is probably the most famous English writer.
-ful	full of	The computer is one of the most useful inventions ever.
-ic, -tic, -ical	having characteristics of	Running is a great form of physical exercise.
-ism	an action, state, or system	Surrealism was a major art movement of the 20th century.
-ist, -ian	someone who plays or does	A pianist is somebody who can play the piano.
-ity, -ty	quality of	Equality is the belief that everybody should be equal.
-ize	make	I'm trying to maximize our profits by selling more stock.
-less	without	The possibilities of technology are limitless.
-ment	condition of, act of	Buying property can be a very good investment.
-ness	state of	Lots of people today are interested in health and fitness.
-ous	having qualities of	The inland taipan is the most venomous snake in the world.
-sion, -tion	state of being or act of	All essays should end with a good conclusion.
-у	characterized by	The weather's terrible today. It's very cloudy outside.

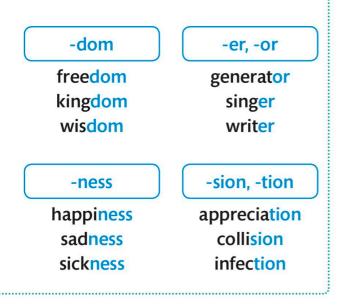
115.4 SUFFIXES CHANGING WORD CLASS

Certain suffixes are only used for specific types of words. The suffix of a word can sometimes show what part of speech the word is.









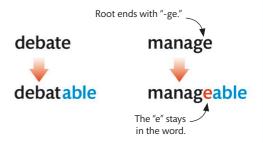
115.5 SUFFIX SPELLING RULES

If the suffix starts with a vowel, and the root ends with a stressed final syllable ending consonant-vowel-consonant, the last letter of the root is doubled before adding the suffix.

occur occurrence

If the suffix starts with a vowel and the root ends with an "-e," the final "-e" is dropped from the root before adding the suffix.

Roots ending "-ge" or "-ce" are an exception.



If the root ends consonant plus "-y," the "y" changes to an "i" before any suffix is added. The exception is "-ing."



If the root ends vowel plus "-y,"
the final "-y" does not change.

Root ends vowel
plus "-y."

employ

employable

The "-y" does not change to an "i."