

Suffixes

A suffix is a letter, syllable, or word that is added to a root or stem of a word to either form a new word or add to its meaning. Suffixes are placed at the end of the root word. The main thing that a suffix shows is how it will be used in a sentence and how it is classified, in terms of whether the word is a noun, a verb, an adverb, or an adjective.

Suffixes are very useful because if one knows how to identify suffixes and what they mean, one can identify what kind of word it is in terms of grammar and increase one's vocabulary.

Verb Suffixes: identifies the tense of the verb and its meaning. Suffixes like the one listed below generally show that the word is a verb.

‘-s’ : is to signify the third person singular in the present tense.

Example: read (root word) + ‘s’ (suffix) = runs

‘-ed’ : shows that the verb is in the past tense.

Example: watch (root) + ‘ed’ (suffix) = watched

‘-en’ : shows that it is a past participle.

Example: soft (root) + ‘en’ (suffix) = soften

‘-ing’ : the verb is being used in the present continuous to signify a process of doing

Example: eat (root) + ‘ing’ (suffix) = eating

‘-ize’ or ‘-ate’ or ‘-ify’ : means to make or do

Examples: personalize: to make personal
imitate: to make imitations
simplify: to make simple

Noun Suffixes: Words with the suffixes listed below show that they are nouns and have the following meanings:

‘-ance’ and ‘-ence’ : signify a state of being or the act of

Examples: perform + ‘-ance’ = performance (the act of performing)
Exist + ‘-ence’ = existence (the act of existing or the state of being)

‘-ant’, ‘-ent’, ‘-er’, ‘-or’, ‘-ian’, and ‘-ist’ : these suffixes signify one who does something

Examples: assist + ‘-ant’ = assistant (one who assists)
study + ‘-ent’ = student (one who studies)
teach + ‘-er’ = teacher (one who teaches)
act + ‘-or’ = actor (one who acts)
history + ‘-ian’ = historian (one who does and studies history)
art + ‘-ist’ = artist (one who does and creates art)

Suffixes (Cont'd)

'-ion' and '-tion': mean the act of or the result of or the condition of

Example: operate + '-ion' = operation (the act of operation)

'-ment': means the act of

Example: commit + '-ment' = commitment (act of committing)

'-ness': shows the quality of being

Examples: happy + '-ness' = happiness (quality of being happy)

great + '-ness' = greatness (quality of being great)

Adjective Suffixes: are suffixes that show that the words are adjectives and have the following meaning:

'-able', '-ible': means able to be

Examples: understand + '-able' = understandable (able to be understood)

Access + '-ible' = accessible (able to be accessed)

'-er': means more

Example: strong + '-er' = stronger (more strong)

'-est': means the most and expresses that it is a superlative

Example: tough + '-est' = toughest (the most tough)

'-ive', '-ous', and '-y': signify to have the quality of or having the nature of

Examples: act + '-ive' = active (have the quality of acting or moving)

'-ful': means to be full of

Example: care + '-ful' = careful (to be full of care)

'-less': means to not have or lack

Example: heart + '-less' = heartless (without a heart)

'-logy': means the study of

Examples: biology (study of life processes)

Egyptology (study of Egypt)

Adverb Suffixes: the following identifies the word as an adverb and expresses the manner in which something is done.

'-ly', '-fully' and '-wise' mean in the manner of

Examples: natural + '-ly' = naturally (in a natural manner)

hope + '-fully' = hopefully (in a manner of hope)

clock + '-wise' = clockwise (in the manner of a clock)

Name _____

Date _____

Suffixes Questions

Multiple Choice:

1. A suffix is a letter or syllable or word that is added to a root word at:

- a. The beginning
- b. The middle
- c. The end
- d. None of the above

2. The suffix ‘-logy’ means:

- a. The study of something
- b. The superlative of something
- c. The quality of something
- d. The result of something

Identify the suffix and determine whether it is a verb, noun, adjective, or adverb:

3. Spoken

Suffix: _____ Type: _____

4. Helpful

Suffix: _____ Type: _____

5. Anticlockwise

Suffix: _____ Type: _____

6. Sculptor

Suffix: _____ Type: _____

7. Musician

Suffix: _____ Type: _____

8. Listens

Suffix: _____ Type: _____

9. Clarify

Suffix: _____ Type: _____

10. Happiest

Suffix: _____ Type: _____

Suffixes Answers

Multiple Choice:

1. A suffix is a letter or syllable or word that is added to a root word at:

- a. The beginning
- b. The middle
- c. **The end**
- d. None of the above

2. The suffix ‘-logy’ means:

- a. **The study of something**
- b. The superlative of something
- c. The quality of something
- d. The result of something

Identify the suffix and determine whether it is a verb, noun, adjective, or adverb:

3. Spoken

Suffix: **-en**

Type: **Verb (past participle)**

4. Helpful

Suffix: **-ful**

Type: **Adjective**

5. Anticlockwise

Suffix: **wise**

Type: **Adverb**

6. Sculptor

Suffix: **-or**

Type: **Noun**

7. Musician

Suffix: **-ian**

Type: **Noun**

8. Listens

Suffix: **-s**

Type: **Verb (present tense)**

9. Clarify

Suffix: **-ify**

Type: **Verb**

10. Happiest

Suffix: **-est**

Type: **Adjective**