



Suffixes

WALT: spell words with suffixes correctly and understand their effect.

Suffixes

- When suffixes are added to a root word, they can change the meaning of the word or the way that it can be used.

Suffixes that form nouns

- o er – player, singer
 - o or – conductor, instructor
 - o eer – engineer, mountaineer
 - o ist – pianist, artist
 - o ship – fellowship, hardship
 - o hood – sisterhood, childhood
 - o ness – kindness, happiness
 - o ism – favouritism
- o What are the root words?

Suffixes that form nouns

- o ment – enjoyment, temperament
 - o ice – service, practice
 - o age – marriage, passage
 - o ance – endurance
 - o ence – coincidence
 - o ation - conversation
 - o ition – competition
- o What are the root words?

Suffixes that form adjectives

o able – understandable

o ible – sensible

o al – musical, medical

o y – noisy, funny

o ish – selfish

o ous – nervous

o less – careless tuneless

o What are the root words?

Suffixes that form adjectives

o ful – harmful, tuneful

o ary – cautionary

o ery – stationery

o ory – exploratory

o ic - athletic

o What are the root words?

Suffixes that form verbs with different tenses

- o ed – banged, whistled
- o ing – following, hearing
- o ise – advertise, practise

- o AND OF COURSE – ly forms adverbs!

The Rules

- Sometimes the spelling of the end of a root word changes a little when a suffix is added.

1

NO CHANGE!

**If the root word ends in a consonant and the suffix begins with a consonant,
you just join them together**

Cat + like = catlike

Content + ment = contentment



2

DOUBLING!

**If the root word ends in a consonant and the suffix begins with a vowel (including y),
you may need to *double* the consonant**

ASK: does the last syllable of the root word have a short vowel sound?

Does it end with a single consonant?

If the answer to both is yes, double the consonant.

If any of the answers are no, they stay as they are.

Doubled

cut + ing = *cutting*

stop + ed = *stopped*

big + er = *bigger*

fun + y = *funny*

Not Doubled

pluck + ing = plucking

rain + ed = rained

rich + er = richer

sleep + y = sleepy

3

SILENT 'E'

If the root word ends in a silent e and the suffix begins with a consonant,

The root word **DOES NOT CHANGE**

If the root word ends in a silent e and the suffix begins with a vowel,
DROP THE 'E' from the root word

tune + ful = tuneful

state + ment = statement

sore + ness = soreness

smoke + less = smokeless

hope + ing = hoping

bake + ed = baked

style + ish = stylish

make + er = maker

WATCH OUT!!!

If the root word ends with the soft sounds ce or ge and the suffix begins with a or o, **DON'T DROP THE 'E'**!

notice + able = noticeable

courage + ous = courageous

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WORDS ENDING IN 'Y'

**A root word ending in y DOES NOT CHANGE when you add -ing.
A root word ending in a vowel and y also DOES NOT CHANGE
when you add any other suffix.**

hurry + ing = hurrying
cry + ing = crying
play + er = player
enjoy + ment = enjoyment

A FEW EXCEPTIONS

pay + ed = paid
day + ly = daily
lay + ed = laid

WATCH OUT!!!

**If the root word ends with a consonant then y,
Change the y to i before all suffixes except ing.**

happy + ness = happiness

lucky + er = luckier