

Suffixes

Suffixes change the meaning of a word. Learn this page and find out how...

Suffixes go at the end of a word

A suffix is a letter or a group of letters that goes at the end of a word. Like prefixes, they always attach to a root word.

root word + suffix = new word (with a new meaning)

paint + er = painter



Suffixes form nouns — ment, ness, er, ity

A suffix can turn a verb or an adjective into a noun. '-ment', '-ness', '-er' and '-ity' all form nouns (for more on nouns, see p.1-2). Watch out for spelling changes when a suffix is added to a word.

happy + ness = happiness

root word (adjective) + suffix = new word (noun)

If the root word ends in a consonant and a 'y', you normally change the 'y' to 'i'.

care + er = carer

root word (verb) + suffix = new word (noun)

When the root word ends in 'e' and the first letter of the suffix is a vowel, you lose the 'e'.



active + ity = activity

Suffixes form adjectives — less, ful, able, ible

These suffixes turn verbs and nouns into adjectives:

-LESS + -FUL

fear + less = fearless hope + ful = hopeful

root word (verb) + suffix = new word (adjective)

-ABLE + -IBLE

rely + able = reliable reverse + ible = reversible

Remember that 'y' changes to 'i' if there's a consonant before it, and the suffix begins with a vowel.

You lose the last 'e' from 'reverse' because the suffix begins with a vowel.

Suffixes

If you loved the last page, you'll like this page too. If you hate suffixes... tough luck, I'm afraid.

Suffixes form adverbs and verbs

Whack 'ly' on the end of an adjective to turn it into an adverb. Watch out for spelling changes:



quick + ly = quickly happy + ly = happily

Remember that the 'y' changes to 'i'.

You can add suffixes to nouns or adjectives to form verbs. Have a look at these examples:

critic + ise = criticise simple + ify = simplify

noun + suffix = verb adjective + suffix = verb

You need to drop the 'e' here.

'ed' and 'ing' change the tense of a verb

-ED

Use 'ed' to put a verb in the past tense:

want + ed = wanted

present tense + suffix = past tense

too many 'e's

If the present tense verb already ends in an 'e', drop one of the 'e's':

bake + ed = baked ✓ bakeed ✗

Remember, you can't use 'ed' with all verbs — many verbs in the past tense are irregular.

For more on verbs, see p.6-9.

-ING

Add 'ing' to a verb to make an -ing verb:

want + ing = wanting

present tense + suffix = -ing verb

If the present tense verb already ends in an 'e', lose the 'e':

bake + ing = baking ✓ bakeing ✗

double consonant

Sometimes if a word ends in a consonant, you have to double the consonant:

run + ing = running



Quick Questions...

Turn each root word into a new word by adding the appropriate suffix. The first one's been done.

- 1) play (adjective) playful
- 2) power (adjective)
- 3) make (-ing verb)
- 4) sad (noun)
- 5) agree (noun)
- 6) bold (adverb)
- 7) sit (-ing verb)
- 8) beauty (adjective)



Words ending in 'cial' and 'tial'

1. Circle the word in **bold** that has the correct ending in each sentence.

Peter was hungry because he hadn't had a very **substancial** / **substantial** meal.

Rebecca thought the flowers were real — they didn't look **artificial** / **artifitial**.

Usain had won the **inicial** / **initial** race, so he felt very confident about the final.

Robert made a television **commercial** / **commertial** to advertise his mud pie shop.

If they want to win the match, it's **essencial** / **essential** that the team work together.

2. Add **cial** or **tial** to complete each of the following words.

par.....

so.....

ra.....

finan.....

benefi.....

poten.....

cru.....

confiden.....

3. Circle the words that have the wrong ending.

Write a short paragraph that includes the correct spelling of the words you've circled.

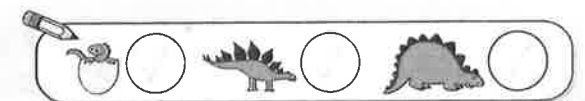
spetial torrencial influential glacial fatial

.....

.....

.....

How much of a Spellasaurus are you? Still hatching or fully-grown? Give yourself a big roar and a tick.





Words ending in 'ent' and 'ant'

1. Add **ent** or **ant** to complete the following words.

comm..... gi..... argum.....
 anci..... inhabit..... arrog.....
 extravag..... appar..... accid.....

2. Circle the words that are spelt incorrectly.
 Write the correct spelling of each word in the box.

permanant relevent distant lenient
 differant evident elegant indignant

permanent

3. Circle the words that you can add **ent** to the end of.
 Write a sentence that includes the correct spelling of all the words you've circled.

pres ch gr apartm rod

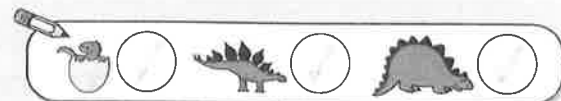
4. Complete the words in these sentences using **ent** or **ant**.

Alex's dog, Baxter, is a brilli..... guard dog, but he isn't very obedi.....

Hasan was sad because he lost his instrum..... the day before the tal..... contest.

In the sil..... car park, the sudden appearance of the eleph..... scared Steve.

How do you feel about your 'ents' and 'ants'? Were you excellent or a bit indifferent? Give yourself a tick.



Words ending in 'ance', 'ancy', 'ence' and 'ency'

1. Circle the words that are spelt incorrectly.
 Write the correct spelling of each word in the box.

influanace resistance tendancy experience
 differance appearance confidance efficiancy

influence

2. Add **ency** or **ancy** to the end of each of these words and use the word in a sentence.

expect The life expectancy of women tends to be higher than that of men.

vac

curr

dec

3. Complete the words in these sentences using **ence** or **ance**.

"Why not look it up in the refer..... library?" suggested the teacher.

Mary found her little lamb a bit of a hindr..... in the supermarket.

Caley was excited about the new perform..... of her favourite musical.

Lotte was able to answer lots of questions in the intellig..... test.

Done? Then give yourself a rating to tell us how you did with words ending in 'ance', 'ancy', 'ence' and 'ency'.

