34 Suffixes

Common suffixes

Suffixes change the class of the root word. For example, by adding the suffix -er, the verb *publish* becomes the noun *publisher*. Suffixes can tell you if a word is a noun, adjective, verb or adverb.

Suffixes for jobs:

-er	*manufacturer* *webmaster*	The two major **manufacturers** of processor chips are Intel and AMD.
-eer	*engineer* *auctioneer*	Greg is a **software engineer**, which means he writes computer programs.
-or	*animator* *operator*	He worked as a computer **animator** on *Toy Story*.
-ant	*IT consultant* *IT assistant*	She's a **computer consultant** and specializes in e-commerce, data protection and IT strategies.
-ian	*technician* *electrician*	A **computer technician** installs, troubleshoots and upgrades hardware and software.
-ist	*typist* *scientist*	Anyone who works as a **typist** may develop a problem with their hands.

Other common suffixes in ICT:

Nouns	-ion, -ment, -ics, -ity (activity, state)	compression, management, robotics, electricity
Adjectives	-able, -ible (able to be)	programmable (keyboard), convertible (format)
	-ful (full of), -less (without)	colourful, colourless (picture)
Verbs	-ize, -ise (to make)	synthesize (music – to make it with a synthesizer)

Word families

It is useful to know how to build up word families by adding suffixes. Look at these examples:

Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives	Adverbs
magnet, magnetism	magnetize	magnetic, magnetized	magnetically
recorder, recording	record	recordable, recorded	
digitizer, digitizing	digitize	digital, digitized	digitally

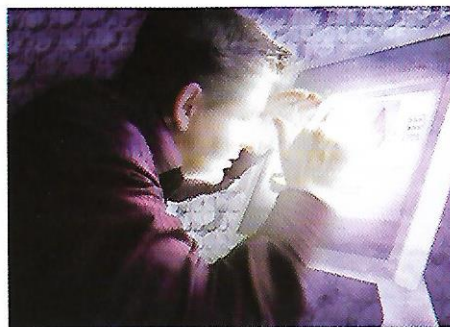Adding a suffix may change the pronunciation. Look at how the stress changes in these words:

photograph   photographer   photographic   photographically

We love 'wares'

The suffix -ware refers to products of the same type. In computing, *software* refers to programs executed by a computer, as opposed to the physical devices on which they run – the *hardware*. It is commonly used to form jargon terms for classes of software.

Be careful of spyware!

- **freeware**: available free of charge, but protected by copyright; it differs from 'free software', which can be changed and distributed subject to licence
- **shareware**: distributed similarly to freeware, except that it requires payment after a trial period
- **malware**: designed to infiltrate or damage a computer (e.g. viruses, trojan horses, spyware)
- **spyware**: designed to monitor the actions of your computer and send this data via the Net
- **adware**: devised to display advertisements; some includes spyware
- **groupware**: enables a group of people connected to a network to work on the same project