List of Suffixes and Suffix Examples

Suffixes are a letter or group of letters added to the ending of words to change their meaning or function. These useful, shapeshifting tools can be as small as **-s**, and **-ed,** or can be larger additions such as **-ation**, and **-ious**.
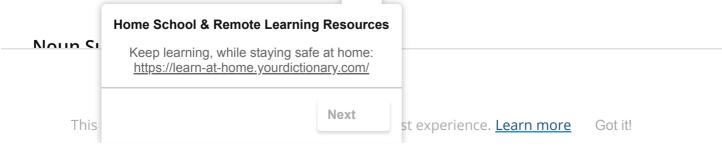
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example, by adding the suffixes -er and -est to the adjective *fond*, you create the comparative *fond*er and the superlative, *fond*est.

Take the suffix -ist, by adding this to a word you have changed the word to describe a person who performs or practices something. So, *art* becomes *art*ist, a person skilled in a particular art.

Let's look at the verb *read*. This verb can be turned into a noun by adding the suffix -er, and so *read* becomes *read*er. Likewise, by adding the suffix -able the verb *read* now becomes the adjective *read*able.

Examples of Suffixes

Some of the most common suffixes and their meanings are as follows:

Noun S

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Examples: auctioneer, volunteer, engineer, profiteer

- **-er**
  Meaning: someone who performs an action
  Examples: helper, teacher, preacher, dancer

- **-ion**
  Meaning: the action or process of
  Examples: celebration, opinion, decision, revision

- **-ity**
  Meaning: the state or condition of
  Examples: probability, equality, abnormality, civility

- **-ment**
  Meaning: the action or result of
  Examples: movement, retirement, abandonment, establishment

- **-ness**
  Meaning: a state or quality
  Examples: fondness, awareness, kindness, darkness

- **-or**
  Meaning: a person who is something
  Examples: distributor, investigator, translator, conductor

- **-sion**
  Meaning: state or being
  Examples: depression, confusion, tension, compulsion

- **-ship**
  Meaning: position held
  Examples: worship, ownership, courtship, internship

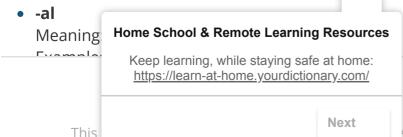- **-th**
  Meaning: state or quality
  Examples: strength, labyrinth, depth, warmth

Adjective Suffixes

- **-able, -ible**
  Meaning: capable of being
  Examples: preventable, adaptable, predictable, credible

- **-al**
  Meaning
  Example

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- **-ary**
  Meaning: of or relating to
  Examples: budgetary, planetary, military, honorary

- **-ful**
  Meaning: full of or notable of
  Examples: grateful, beautiful, wonderful, fanciful

- **-ic**
  Meaning: relating to
  Examples: iconic, organic, heroic, poetic

- **-ious, -ous**
  Meaning: having qualities of
  Examples: gracious, cautious, humorous, fabulous

- **-ive**
  Meaning: quality or nature of
  Examples: creative, expensive, expressive, pensive

- **-less**
  Meaning: without something
  Examples: hopeless, faultless, fearless, restless

- **-y**
  Meaning: made up of or characterized by
  Examples: brainy, fruity, tasty, grouchy

Verb Suffixes

- **-ed**
  Meaning: past-tense version of a verb
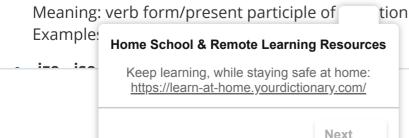 Examples: laughed, climbed, called, missed

- **-en**
  Meaning: become
  Examples: soften, fasten, lengthen, strengthen

- **-er**
  Meaning: action or process, making an adjective comparative
  Examples: faster, bigger, fuller, longer

- **-ing**
  Meaning: verb form/present participle of   tion
  Examples

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Adverb Suffixes

- **-ly**
  Meaning: in what manner something is being done
  Examples: bravely, simply, honestly, gladly

- **-ward**
  Meaning: in a certain direction
  Examples: backward, wayward, awkward, afterward

- **-wise**
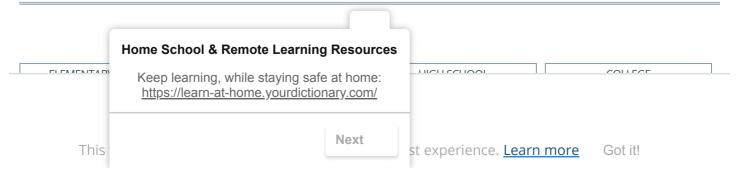 Meaning: in relation to
  Examples: clockwise, edgewise, lengthwise, otherwise

Using Suffixes

Suffixes create variety in the English language. They provide endless ways to express our thoughts, feelings, findings, and emotions. They morph nouns into adjectives and verbs into nouns. They express deeper qualities, providing layers of color and intrigue required by writers.

Be aware that sometimes adding a suffix to a base word changes the spelling of the new word, as in create/creative. To help you learn why and when this happens read Suffix Spelling Rules.

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-able	can be done	preventable
-ly	a characteristic of	bravely
-y	characterized by	brainy
-ed	past-tense verb	laughed
-ion	the action or process of	celebration
-ment	the action or result of	movement
-ness	the state or quality of	fondness
-s	plural	girls

What Are the Types of Affixes?

Bound and Free Morpheme Examples

Suffix Spelling Rules

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