

7 Suffixes

Activity A

What do these suffixes mean?

Suffixes are word endings which have a grammatical function and a meaning. The grammatical function of the suffixes in activity A is that they form nouns. But what is the meaning? Look at the example words and match them with the right meaning. Then check your answers in your dictionary. (NB Suffixes sometimes have more than one meaning so you could also look at this when you check your answers – it is a good way to expand your vocabulary.)

Match each suffix with its meaning:

SUFFIX AND EXAMPLE WORDS	MEANING
1 -ant inhabitant, assistant	a skill or ability as
2 -ee employee, interviewee	b a person affected by an action
3 -ess actress, lioness	c a disease
4 -hood priesthood, sisterhood	d a group of people of the type mentioned
5 -ism Buddhism, communism	e a person or thing that does an action
6 -ist dentist, chemist	f the action or result of
7 -itis arthritis, hepatitis	g the teaching, system or movement
8 -let piglet, droplet	h small; not very important
9 -ment bombardment, development	i a female
10 -ship musicianship, penmanship	j a member of a profession or business activity

Activity B

Here are six more suffixes: -ous, -ify, -ly, -esque, -able, -ize. Their grammatical function is different to the suffixes in Activity A. Look at the example words and put each suffix into the right grammatical box. Then check your answers in a dictionary and look at the meaning of the suffix too.

mountainous, dangerous purify, solidify cowardly, friendly
statuesque, picturesque comfortable, suitable criticize, privatize

ADJECTIVE	VERB