

Rules for adding suffixes to root words

Monday 1st June 2020

This week we are going to spend some time thinking about *suffixes*.

“What’s a suffix?” you ask? Good question. I’ve used my dictionary skills to find a definition, and this is what I discovered;

“A suffix is a letter or group of letters added at the end of a word which makes a new word. Here are some examples.”



words	suffix	new words
<i>forget, use</i>	<i>-ful</i>	<i>forgetful, useful</i>
<i>state, govern</i>	<i>-ment</i>	<i>statement, government</i>
<i>complicate, create</i>	<i>-ion</i>	<i>complication, creation</i>

The new word is most often a different word class from the original word. In the table above, the suffix -ful has changed verbs to adjectives, -ment, and -ion have changed verbs to nouns. If you see a word ending in -ment, for example, it is likely to be a noun (e.g. commitment, contentment).”

There are lots of suffixes that can be added to root words, for example;

-ful, -ness, -ed, -ing, -er, -ion, -ular and many, many more!

With me so far? Good. The purpose of this session is to learn about the rules for spelling when you are adding a suffix to a root word.

The key to this is to look at the letters at the end of the root word...

Example 1 For root words that end with **two consonants, simply add the suffix**. For example, ‘walk’ becomes ‘walking’, ‘walked’ or ‘walker’; ‘fast’ becomes ‘faster’, ‘fastest’ or ‘fasting’.

Example 2 Where the root word ends with a **short vowel and a consonant, the consonant is doubled and the suffix added**. For example, ‘hop’ becomes ‘hopped’ or ‘hopping’; ‘sit’ becomes ‘sitting’ or ‘sitter’.

Example 3 If a root words ends with a **long vowel sound and an e**, the **e is removed and the suffix added**. So, for example, 'hope' becomes 'hoping'.

Example 4 And finally, in root words that end with a **consonant and a y**, the **y is replaced with an i and the suffix added**. For example, 'cry' becomes 'cries' or 'cried'. However, there is an exception to this rule... When adding -ing, the suffix is added without removing the y, so 'cry' becomes 'crying'.

Our task today will begin with a root word. You will decide what *word class* it is (e.g. noun, verb, etc.) You will then be asked to add a suffix using the correct spelling rule. Finally, state what word class the new word is. Here's what it will look like;

Word	Class	Suffix	New word	Class
beautiful	adjective	-ly	beautifully	adverb
cry	verb	-ing	crying	verb

The BBC have put together this video, which also explains more about adding suffixes; <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/english-ks2-wonderful-words-suffixes-part-1/zdnd7nb>

When you have completed the spelling task, use each new word in a sentence, which must be properly punctuated and spelt, grammatically correct **and imaginative!** You could even use the words to write a short story. For example, using the words from the table above; "The blond-haired girl sang beautifully as she harvested parsnips from the field under the blazing sun. Suddenly, her work was interrupted by the sound of someone quietly crying, not far away."

Your selection of words is over the page...have fun!

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Word	Class	Suffix	New word	Class
act		-ive		
act		-ed		
clock		-wise		
helpful		-ly		
help		-ed		
sit		-ing		
arrive		-ed		
child		-hood		
hope		-ed		
cry		-es		
arrive		-al		
hop		-ed		
help		-ful		
move		-ed		
friend		-ship		
child		-ish		
home		-ward		
try		-ed		

And now write some sentences...