

Suffix

A **suffix** is a letter or a group of letters attached to the end of a word to form a new word or to alter the grammatical function of the original word. For example, the verb *read* can be made into the noun *reader* by adding the suffix *-er*; *read* can be made into the adjective *readable* by adding the suffix *-able*.

Understanding the meanings of the common suffixes can help us deduce the meanings of new words that we encounter. The table below defines and illustrates common suffixes.

Common Suffixes

Noun Suffixes

Suffix	Examples
-acy	privacy, accuracy
-age	courage, damage
-al	arrival, refusal
-ance	acceptance, assistance

-ence	competence, existence
-ant	assistant, consultant
-ation	exploration, hesitation
-dom	freedom, kingdom
-ent	agent, resident
-er	teacher, carpenter
-hood	childhood, falsehood
-ics	electronics, statistics
-ing	building, dressing
-ion	collection, protection
-ism	realism, communism
-ist	dentist, chemist
-ity, -ty	ability, activity
-ment	development, arrangement
-ness	darkness, blindness
-or	navigator, director
-ship	friendship, leadership
-sion	division, conclusion
-th	strength, length
-tion	solution, pollution
-ure	pressure, failure
-y	victory, difficulty

Adjective Suffixes

Suffix	Examples
-able	comfortable, portable
-al	accidental, regional
-ary	complimentary, imaginary
-cal	practical, magical
-en	wooden, woolen
-ful	beautiful, careful
-ic	photographic, nomadic
-ical	classical, chemical
-ish	feverish, selfish
-ive	creative, active
-less	useless, powerless, endless
-like	lifelike, childlike
-ly	daily, friendly
-ous	dangerous, famous
-some	troublesome, handsome
-y	rainy , messy

Verb Suffixes

Suffix	Examples
-ate	eradicate, evaluate
-en	enlighten, frighten
-ify, -fy	terrify, classify
-ize, -ise	civilize, specialize

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