

Suffixes are one or more letters added to the end of a base word to change its conjugation, word type, or other grammar properties like plurality. For example, you can add the suffix -s to the noun *strength* to make it plural (*strengths*) or add the suffix -en to turn it into a verb (*strengthen*)

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A suffix is a letter or a group of letters attached to the end of a word to form a new word or to change the grammatical function (or part of speech) of the word. For example, the verb *read* is made into the noun *reader* by adding the suffix -er. Similarly, *read* is made into the adjective *readable* by adding the suffix -able.

Understanding Suffix Meanings

Understanding the meanings of the common suffixes can help you figure out the meanings of new words you encounter. In some cases, the spelling of a root or base word changes when a suffix is added. For example, in words ending in *y* preceded by a consonant (such as the noun *beauty* and the adjective *ugly*), the *y* may change to an *i* when a suffix is added (as in the adjective *beautiful* and the noun *ugliness*). In words ending in silent -e (such as *use* and *adore*), the final -e may be dropped when the suffix that's added begins with a vowel (as in *usable* and *adorable*).

As with all spelling rules, there are exceptions. Not all suffixes can be added to all roots. For example, the adjective *beautiful* is formed by adding the suffix *-ful* to the noun *beauty*, and the noun *ugliness* is formed by adding the suffix *-ness* to the adjective *ugly*.

Also note that a suffix may have more than one meaning. With adjectives and adverbs, for instance, the *-er* suffix usually conveys the comparative meaning of "more" (as in the adjectives *kinder* and *longer*). But in some cases, the *-er* ending can also refer to someone who performs a particular action (such as a *dancer* or *builder*) or to someone who lives in a particular place (such as a *New Yorker* or a *Dubliner*).

Common Suffixes in English

Think of the 26 common suffixes that follow as clues to the meanings of words, however, bear in mind that the meanings of words are best determined by studying the contexts in which they are used as well as the construction of the words themselves.

Noun Suffixes:

<i>Suffix</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Example</i>
-acy	state or quality	privacy, fallacy, delicacy
-al	act or process of	refusal, recital, rebuttal
-ance, -ence	state or quality of	maintenance, eminence, assurance
-dom	place or state of being	freedom, kingdom, boredom
-er, -or	one who	trainer, protector, narrator

-ism	doctrine, belief	communism, narcissism,
-ist	one who	hemist, narcissist, plagiarist
-ity, -ty	quality of	inactivity, veracity, parity, serenity
-ment	condition of	argument, endorsement,
-ness	state of being	heaviness, sadness, rudeness, testiness
-ship	position held	fellowship, ownership, kinship, internship
-sion, -tion	state of being	concession, transition, abbreviation

Verb Suffixes:

<i>Suffix</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Example</i>
-ate	become	regulate, eradicate, enunciate, repudiate
-en	become	enlighten, awaken, strengthen
-ify, -fy	make or become	terrify, satisfy, rectify, exemplify
-ize, -ise*	become	civilize, humanize, socialize, valorize

Adjective Suffixes:

<i>Suffix</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Example</i>
-able, -ible	capable of being	edible, presentable, abominable, credible
-al	pertaining to	regional, grammatical, emotional, coastal
-esque	reminiscent of	picturesque, statuesque, burlesque
-ful	notable for	fanciful, resentful, woeful, doubtful
-ic, -ical	pertaining to	musical, mythic, domestic, chiasitic
-ious, -ous	characterized by	nutritious, portentous, studious
-ish	having the quality of	fiendish, childish, snobbish
-ive	having the nature of	creative, punitive, divisive, decisive
-less	without	endless, ageless, lawless, effortless
-y	characterized by	sleazy, hasty, greasy, nerdy, smelly

In American English, verbs end with *-ize*, versus British English, in which the spelling changes to *-ise*.

American English: *finalize, realize, emphasize, standardize*

British English: *finalise, realise, emphasise, standardise*

Inflectional suffixes

Inflectional suffixes do not change the **meaning of the original word**. So in "Every day I walk to school" and "Yesterday I walked to school", the words **walk** and **walked** have the same basic meaning. In "I have one car" and "I have two cars", the basic meaning of the words **car** and **cars** is exactly the same. In these cases, the suffix is added simply for grammatical "correctness". Look at these examples:

		example	
suffix	grammatical change	original word	suffixed word
-s	plural	dog	dogs
-en	plural (irregular)	ox	oxen
-s	3rd person singular present	like	he likes
-ed	past tense	work	he worked
	past participle		he has worked

-en	past participle (irregular)	eat	he has eaten
-ing	continuous/progressive	sleep	he is sleeping
-er	comparative	big	bigger
-est	superlative	big	the biggest

Derivational suffixes

With derivational suffixes, the new word has a new **meaning**, and is usually a different **part of speech**. But the new meaning is related to the old meaning - it is "derived" from the old meaning.

We can add more than one suffix, as in this example:

derive (verb) + **ation** → *derivation* (noun) + **al** → *derivational* (adjective)

There are several hundred derivational suffixes. Here are some of the more common ones:

suffix	making	example original word	example suffixes word

-ation	nouns	explore hesitate	explor ation hesit ation
-sion		persuade divide	persuas ion divis ion
-er		teach	teacher
-cian		music	music ian
-ess		god	godd ess
-ness		sad	sad ness
-al		arrive	arriv al
-ary		diction	diction ary

-ment		treat	treatment
-y		jealous victor	jealousy victory
-al	adjectives	accident	accidental
-ary		imagine	imaginary
-able		tax	taxable
-ly		brother	brotherly
-y		ease	easy
-ful		sorrow forget	sorrowful forgetful

-ly	adverbs	helpful	help fully
-ize	verbs	terror	terror ize
		private	privat ize
-ate		hyphen	hyphen ate

Note that the suffix **-er** can convert almost any verb into the person or thing performing the action of the verb. For example: a teacher is a person who teaches, a lover loves, a killer kills, an observer observes, a walker walks, a runner runs; a sprinkler is a thing that sprinkles, a copier copies, a shredder shreds.

Quiz

<https://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/suffixes-quiz.php>

Reading and Use of English paper about Bitcoin.

It requires you to know the different types of words (verbs, adjectives, nouns etc..) that are associated with different words. For example: like, likely, unlikely, dislike, likeable, likeness.

Use the word given in capitals below the text to form a word to go in each corresponding gap. (0) has been given as an example. Write down your answers for each gap and then check to see how many you got correct by clicking on the "Answers" tab below the questions.

Bitcoin is a digital currency or cryptocurrency that uses advanced technology to facilitate instant payments. It is (0)..... used for online shopping and transferring money without (1)..... a bank account. It (2)..... from (3)..... currency because there is no central authority that controls it.

Bitcoins are created through a process called mining. This involves a computer (4)..... a complex formula, which is created by the network. When a miner solves the formula they receive Bitcoins for their work. Only 21 million Bitcoins can ever be extracted with no (5)..... to increase or decrease.

There are many things other than money which people consider (6)..... like gold or diamonds, and bitcoin is no different. People are (7)..... to exchange bitcoin for real goods, services or cash. Whether you want to use bitcoin comes down to personal (8)..... Some people use bitcoin because, although all transactions are recorded, nobody would know which 'account number' was yours unless you told them.

(0)

PRIMARY – PRIMARILY

(1)

REQUIRE –

(2)

DIFFERENT –

(3)

TRADITION –

(4)

SOLUTION –

(5)

POSSIBLE –

(6)

VALUE –

(7)

PREPARATION –

(8)

PREFER –

(1)REQUIRING - (2)DIFFERS - (3) TRADITIONAL - (4) SOLVING -
(5)POSSIBILITY - (6)VALUABLE - (7)PREPARED - (8) PREFERENCE

