What's Next, Suffix?

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What is a Suffix?

A suffix is an affix that is attached to a root word, changing its meaning. Some suffixes are as common as adding an *s* or *es* to make the word plural.

Some suffixes are used for making comparisons as in *funny*, *funnier*, and *funniest*.

Other suffixes change the grammar of a word and are used to indicate past tense by adding *-ed*.

Sometimes suffixes change the root word from a noun into an adjective and a verb into an adverb as in *friend* to *friendly* and *help* into *helpful*. 
Why Are Suffixes Important?

Understanding the meanings of common suffixes can help students comprehend what they are reading at all levels, particularly when the word is new to them. Knowledge of suffixes also improves spelling.

Some common suffixes are:

- **-s or -es** plural friends, dogs
- **-ed** past tense talked, worked
- **-er** one who teacher, baker
- **-ness** state of being sadness, goodness
- **-less** without homeless, sleepless
- **-y** characterized by cloudy, friendly
- **-ful** noted for careful, joyful
- **er or est** comparative bigger, biggest