

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