

Suffixes

The most useful suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Example
ful	having or marked by	beautiful, sorrowful
y	characterised by	beauty, funny
er	comparative	brighter, wider, smaller
est	superlative (the most)	brightest, widest, smallest
er/or	person who does something	teacher, actor
en	to cause or to become	fatten, moisten, widen
ing	indicates present tense	running, farming, growing
ed	indicates past tense	attained, maintained, waded, scoffed
ly	in the manner of	slowly, fluently, partly
tion/sion	state of being	transition, investigation, occasion, tension
able/ible	capable of being	adaptable, edible, incredible, solvable
ment	condition of	enjoyment, contentment
ness	state of being	happiness, kindness, ugliness
less	without	helpless, homeless, tasteless
s/es	more than one	dogs, buses

Other useful suffixes

To make adjectives

Suffix	Meaning	Example
ic	having the quality of	music, comic
ish	having the quality of	boyish, selfish, smallish
ive/ative itive	having the nature of	creative, active, investigative
ous/eous ious/ose	having the quality of	adventurous, piteous, jealous, marvellous, comatose
ant/ent	agent or result of action	pleasant, decadent, relevant
al/ial/ical	having the quality of	cultural, partial, gradual, tropical
ate	like or related to	compassionate, affectionate

To make nouns

acy/cy	state or quality	privacy, infancy, adequacy
age	action or result of action	courage, shrinkage
al/ial	action or result of action	refusal, festival, referral
ance/ence	state or quality of	attendance, maintenance, independence, resistance
ist	one who	florist, motorist, pharmacist
ity/ty	quality of	tenacity, quantity
an/ian/cian	one who	human, magician, politician
ology	study of	geology, zoology

To make verbs

ate	become	participate, amputate, graduate
ify	to make	horrify, terrify, pacify
ise/ize	cause	fantasise, realise, organise