



Suffix

Teach/Model

Define Suffixes Explain to students that a suffix is a word part that is added to the end of a base word to change the word's meaning or part of speech. Then write the following sentence on the board: *I just read a wonderful nonfiction book.*

THINK ALOUD *I see the suffix -ful at the end of the word wonderful. The suffix -ful might mean "full of." If I take this suffix off, I see the word wonder, which I know can mean either "something special or remarkable," or "to be filled with awe." Wonderful must mean "full of something remarkable" or "full of wonder." If I substitute full of wonder for wonderful, the meaning makes sense.*

Write these suffixes on the board: *-able, -er, -est, -ful, -less, -ly, -ment, -ion, and -y.* Review the meaning of each suffix. Help students generate a list of words for each suffix.

Guided Practice/Apply

Identify Suffixes Write the following sentences on the board. Have students identify the suffixes in the underlined words and figure out the meanings of these words.

Have students write the meanings they figured out.

1. My uncle has the safest driving record in our family. (*-est; most safe*)
2. We carefully follow the recipe. (*-ly; in a careful way*)
3. I did not understand the assignment. (*-ment; something assigned*)
4. That little dog is fearless. (*-less; without fear*)
5. I saw a really enjoyable movie last night. (*-able; able to be enjoyed*)
6. The crowd was very noisy. (*-y; full of noise*)
7. What was his reaction to your news? (*-ion; the process of reacting*)
8. That dancer is graceful. (*-er; one who dances; -ful; full of grace*)

Then have students identify the base word in each of the underlined words. (*safe, careful or care, assign, fear, enjoy, noise, react, dance, grace*) Discuss whether adding the suffix changes the word's part of speech.

Practice using comparative suffixes by having volunteers use *warmer* and *warmest* in their own sentences. Discuss whether they used the comparative endings correctly.

Additional Practice

Suffix	Example
-able	enjoyable
-er	player
-ful	joyful
-less	painless
-ly	easily
-ment	amazement
-ion	protection
-y	dirty

The suffixes *-er* and *-est* are also used to compare things. Words ending in *-er* are used to compare two things. Words ending in *-est* are used to compare more than two things.

Suffix Tip

When adding a suffix that begins with a vowel to a word that ends in silent *e*, drop the *e* before adding the suffix. When adding a suffix to a base word that ends in *y*, you usually change the *y* to *i*.