

SUFFIXES



Morphology

Adjectival Suffixes

able/ible	Able to be done
al	Relating to
ate	Characterised by
cious/ tious	Full of, characterised by
scious	
ed	Describes feeling
ed	Specific feature, quality
er	More
est	Most
ful	Full of
ic	Quality of
ic	Pertaining to
ious/ ous	Having quality of
ish	Somewhat, approximately
ish	From a specific place
ive	In the nature of, tending to
less	Without
ly	Character traits
ly	Relating to a time
ous	Having, characterised by
ular	Relating to
y	Characterised by

Verb Suffixes

ate	Cause to become
ise	To make or become
ise	To subject to
ify	Make happen, cause
en	To make happen

Turn base words into adjectives

Measurable, affordable, edible, permissible
 Educational, personal, musical
 Passionate, deliberate, obstinate
 Atrocious, spacious, ferocious, malicious, ambitious, nutritious, conscious
 Bored, excited, interested, confused
 Talented, pointed, winged, barbed, bearded
 Faster, slower, longer
 Fastest, slowest, longest
 Joyful, helpful, graceful
 Energetic, romantic, heroic, metallic
 Historic, scenic, volcanic, economic, periodic
 Dangerous, studious, courageous, famous
 Childish, greenish, feverish, sheepish
 Spanish, British, Irish, Scottish, Polish
 Creative, competitive, affirmative, progressive, destructive
 Helpless, homeless, speechless
 Friendly, lovely, motherly, lonely, cowardly
 Daily, weekly, annually
 Dangerous, miraculous, mountainous
 Circular, angular, muscular, modular
 Dirty, messy, cloudy



Turn base words into a verb

Captivate, activate, emigrate, regulate
 Characterise, memorise, modernise
 Hospitalise, oxidise, sterilise
 Modify, liquify, justify, purify
 Lengthen, soften, thicken, loosen, darken

Noun Suffixes

age	Result or process
age	State or relationship
ance/ence	Action or state of being
ant/ ent	Person (or thing) that does something
ate	Persons' position, or group (of people)
cian/ ian	Person who does or is something
ee	Person who receives or is target of something
er	Person or thing that does something
ification	Action or result
ism	Belief or state of being
ist	Person who does or is something
ment	Result of an action
ness	Quality of being
or	Person or thing that does something
sion/ cion/ ssion/tion/	Turns verbs into abstract nouns

Turn base words into a noun

Breakage, wreckage, drainage, passage
Marriage, hostage, bondage, orphanage
Acceptance, annoyance, inference, emergence
Assistant, contestant, applicant, student, resident, president, opponent, hydrant
Consulate, candidate, magistrate, syndicate, electorate, protectorate
Musician, dietician, electrician, librarian, politician, custodian, Norwegian
Payee, trainee, trustee, employee, devotee, refugee, absentee
Teacher, computer, slasher, plumber
clarification, justification, verification
Organism, consumerism, capitalism, optimism
Pharmacist, scientist, feminist, biologist
Agreement, argument, development, movement
Happiness, cleanliness, awareness, forgiveness
Competitor, actor, director, demonstrator, accelerator, incinerator
Precision, education, mission, suspicion

Verb Suffixes

ly	In a particular way
ward	Shows direction
way/ ways	Direction or manner

Turn base words into an adverb

Slowly, happily, quickly, conclusively
Backward, forward, downward
Sideways, always, lengthways

