

# THE MEANING OF SUFFIXES



When working with suffixes it is important to recognise their role in changing the meaning of the base word. Ask the child to consider groups of words with the same suffix and see if they can figure out the meaning of the suffix for themselves. This page includes some less common suffixes that can be introduced when the child is ready. Initially just stick to the most common suffixes already outlined.

## -ED

Past tense marker

*played  
slowed  
wiped*

## -ER

It means 'one who...'

*driver  
rider  
cooker*

## -EST

It means 'to be the most...'

*greatest  
lowest  
lightest*

## -EN

It means 'to increase the quality of...'

*sharpen  
frozen  
deepen*

## CHOICE OF SUFFIXES

These suffixes have been chosen as they often attach to common recognisable base words. There are many more that will be addressed later.

## -ING

It means 'the act of...'

*taking  
sleeping  
sneezing*

## -IST

It means 'one who does or is...'

*artist  
cartoonist  
tourist*

## -ISH

It means 'to be like...'

*foolish  
selfish  
childish*

## -IZE

It means 'to make or do'

*finalize  
visualize  
specialize*

## -IFY

It means 'to make or do'

*identify  
simplify  
falsify*

## -Y

It means 'having the quality of...'

*crunchy  
slimy  
peppery*

## -FUL

It means 'to be full of...'

*painful  
useful  
helpful*

## -LY

It means 'in the manner of...'

*mostly  
rudely  
safely*

## -LESS

It means 'does not have...'

*endless  
restless  
jobless*

## -NESS

It means 'quality of being...'

*illness  
fitness  
sadness*

## -MENT

It means 'the act of...'

*payment  
movement  
pavement*

## -WISE

It means 'in the manner of...'

*clockwise  
likewise  
streetwise*

## MULTISYLLABIC WORDS

The rules change for words with longer words as they are influenced by the stress placed on different syllables. For now stick with shorter words that follow the rules.