

A dog howled, ~~braeking~~ the
comma → breaking

stillness. Someone was behind me...
period ← ellipsis

Suffixes



A lot of long words can be broken down into smaller parts.
For example:

disadvantageous

dis-

prefix
meaning 'not'

advantage

Root (what is left of
the word when all the
prefixes and suffixes
are removed)

-ous

suffix which
turns a noun
into an adjective

Knowing about the different parts of words can help us to understand their meanings.

What do you think 'disadvantageous' means?

What is a suffix?

A **suffix** is a group of letters that goes **after** the root of a word. The suffix changes the meaning of the word.

Unlike a prefix, a suffix also often changes the **class** of the word it is added to.

For example, if we add the suffix **'ish'** to the **noun 'child'**, it becomes an **adjective** – **'childish'**.

child (noun) → **ish** (suffix) → **childish** (adjective)

Do you know what word class the verb **'adore'** changes to when the suffix **'able'** is added to it?

adore (verb) → **adorable** (adjective)



Drag each box into the correct position in the table to see the different changes that occur when the different suffixes are added to the words listed. You will start with the column on the left. Remember that the spellings of the root words sometimes change slightly too. Press on the arrow buttons to scroll up and down and see all of the table.

Press **start** to begin.

start

-ous



solve



Organize these words into groups that share the same suffix.

1

2

3

4

investigative

5

6

7

?

solve

↻

What are the different suffixes you can see here?

The -er suffix turns some words into nouns and some words into comparative adjectives. Can you sort these words with -er suffixes into the correct groups?

nouns



comparative adjectives



stronger

drummer

clearer

nicer

weaker

happier

baker

prettier

teacher

driver

reader

farmer



solve



Choose the correct suffixes to complete the text.

It was a sensational environment? ▼ breakthrough!
The photograph? ▼ opportunities were immense –
this would be on the front page of all the nation? ▼
papers.

From a person? ▼ perspective, to have found a
solution to the season? ▼ volcan? ▼ eruptions
was a lifetime's achievement. From a scientif? ▼
viewpoint, the repercussions were enormous.



solve



-al and -ic suffixes

The suffixes **-al** and **-ic** both change **nouns** into **adjectives**.

When the root word ends in a **consonant**, the suffix is simply added to the end of the word.

When the root word ends in a **vowel** or a 'y', the last letter is usually dropped before the suffix is added.

Look at these adjectives with **-al** and **-ic** suffixes.

Can you identify which root word (nouns) the suffixes have been added to?

medical

allergic






energetic

occasional

horrific

The suffix **-ist** often shows what jobs people do. You take the noun, e.g. '**violin**', and add '**-ist**' to make the word '**violinist**'. A violinist is someone whose job it is to play the violin.

Can you make any more jobs from the nouns below?

novel  **novelist**
balloon  **balloonist**
journal  **journalist**
machine  **machinist**
art  **artist**



 If the word ends in 'e' take off the e when adding **-ist**. 

The suffix **-est** is added to **adjectives** to make a word that means 'the most...' (the **superlative** form of the adjective). So, for example, 'nicest' means 'the most nice'.

What are the superlative forms of these adjectives?

clever	→	cleverest
long	→	longest
small	→	smallest
tall	→	tallest
pretty	→	prettiest
happy	→	happiest

If the word ends in **y**, the **y** changes to **i** when you add **-est**.



The suffix **-ous** means 'having the properties of'.
Match each **-ous** word to its meaning.

miscellaneous

humorous

hideous

mischievous

monotonous

unanimous

all in agreement

ugly

funny

mixed, assorted

up to no good

boring, dull



solve



The suffix **-ive** means performing or attending to a specific action, e.g. 'it was an explosive situation'.

Can you complete these sentences by using the suffix -ive to change the root words (shown in green)?

1. She was an _____ (**investigate**) journalist.
2. They tried to think of _____ (**alternate**) solutions.
3. He was given a _____ (**commemorate**) plaque to help him remember the important day.
4. It was a dangerous job, so you had to wear _____ (**protect**) clothing.
5. The new detergent was very _____ (**effect**).

How many words can you think of that end in the suffix **-ly**, e.g. 'friendly'?

You have 30 seconds to think of as many as you can!

Press play to start the timer.



Did you think of these?

actually

especially

eventually

kindly

weekly

really



Why do some of the words end **-lly**?

Because the root word ends in an 'l'.

especial**l** + **ly** = especial**lly**

week + **ly** = week**ly**



The suffix **-ly** means 'in this manner/way'.

What is the meaning of the following words?

especially  **in a special or particular way**

slowly  **in a slow manner**

kindly  **in a kind manner**

Words ending in **-ly** are often **adverbs**. Adverbs tell us something about the verb. For example, 'she ran **quickly** to the bus stop'.



What do the following words mean?

careless =

care + less



without care

thankless =

thank + less



without thanks

homeless =

home + less



without a home

Can you think of any other words with the suffix **-less**?

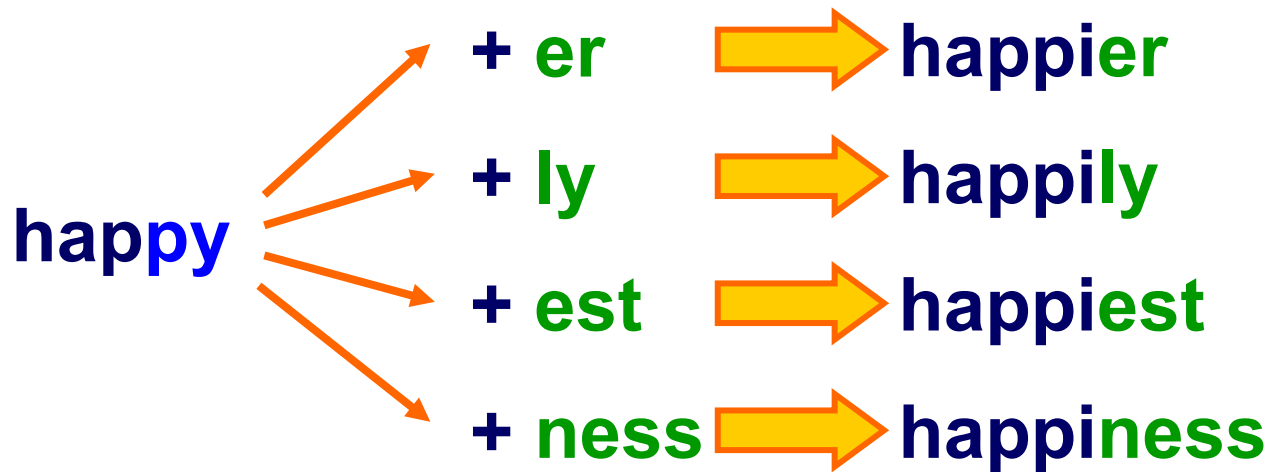


-ery and -ary suffixes



Suffixes for words ending in y

Look what happens when we add suffixes to words ending in a **consonant + y**.



Can you see what is happening?

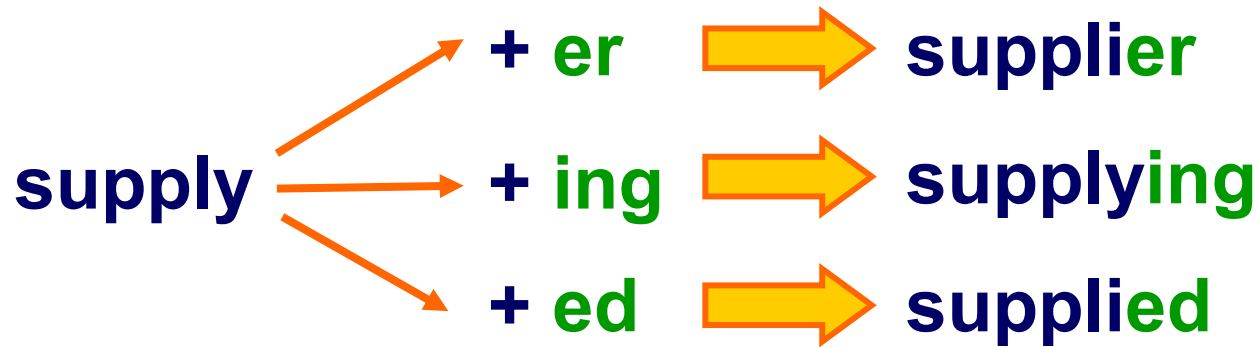
The **y** changes to an **i** and then the suffix is added.

So, for words ending in **consonant + y**, the **y** changes to an **i** before the prefix is added.

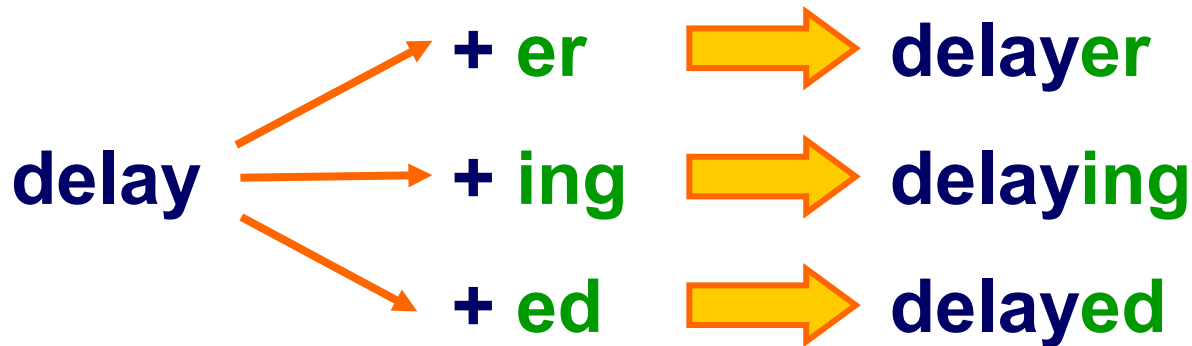
Can you think of any exceptions to this rule?

Suffixes for words ending in y

Look at what happens to the word **supply** when these suffixes are added:



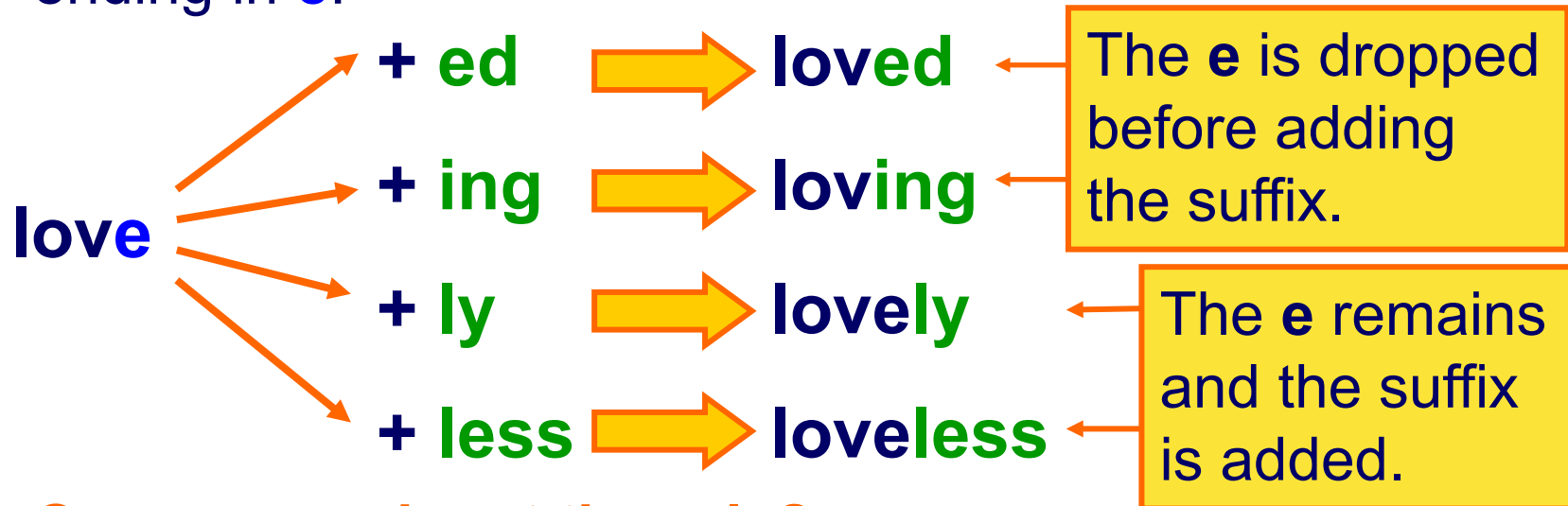
What happens to words ending **vowel + y**?



To add a suffix to a **vowel + y** word, just add the suffix.

Suffixes for words ending in e

Look at what happens when we add suffixes to a word ending in **e**:



Can you work out the rule?

If the suffix begins with a vowel, the **e** is usually dropped.

If the suffix begins with a consonant, the **e** remains.

Words ending in a soft **ce** or **ge** usually keep the **e** before **able** and **ous**, e.g. knowledgeable, courageous.



-ible and -able suffixes



Decide whether to add the suffix -able or -ible to form a word.

-able

-ible

value

destruct

enjoy

knowledge

force

remark

notice

digest

pass

reverse

solve



Do you notice any patterns or rules?

pretty

clever

photograph

complete

direct

time

How many suffixes can you add to the words on the left to form new words?

Write down as many as you can and then click on the words on the left to see all the possible new words.

