

Class Notes

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Prefix and Suffix

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Prefix

A syllable or a word part added to the beginning of the word is called as **prefix**. They never change the part of speech. A prefix has a meaning, but it is not a word.

Examples of prefix : dis, un, re, co, bi, be pre, non, im, dis, mis, sub, super, anti, over

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re + pay	repay
pre + mature	premature
im + possible	impossible
non+ fiction	non-fiction
dis + agree	disagree
re + build	rebuild
pre + view	preview
mis + understand	misunderstand
re + cycle	recycle
bi + annual	biannual
re + write	rewrite
un+ tidy	untidy
dis + honest	dishonest
mis + behave	misbehave
non + sense	nonsense
dis + advantage	disadvantage
re + appear	reappear
in + active	inactive
mis + lead	mislead

in + visible	invisible
sub + way	subway
mis+ conduct	misconduct
in+ capable	incapable
auto + pilot	autopilot
dis + agree	disagree
in + complete	incomplete
sub + merge	submerge
dis + obedient	disobedient
sub + title	subtitle
re + place	replace
in + formal	informal
il + legal	illegal
super + market	supermarket
dis + obey	disobey
auto + graph	autograph
inter + view	interview
inter + state	interstate
re + fill	refill
in + appropriate	inappropriate

in + adequate	inadequate
re + move	remove
un + fair	unfair
anti + freeze	antifreeze
im + portant	important
pro + active	proactive
sub + marine	submarine
inter + face	interface
re + use	reuse
pre + school	preschool
anti + virus	antivirus
semi+ final	semifinal
post+ graduate	postgraduate
anti + clockwise	anticlockwise
tri+ cycle	tricycle
ex + president	ex-president
ultra + sound	ultrasound
self + respect	self-respect
co+ worker	co-worker

pre + history	pre h istory
pro + active	pro a ctive
in + direct	in d irect
over + cook	over c ook
un + pack	un p ack
anti + bacterial	anti b acterial

Suffix

A **suffix** is a word part that is placed at the end of a base word. A suffix often transforms a word into a new part of speech. Common suffixes include ed, ing, est, es, ish, er, able, s, ful, less, ly, ment, ness, or, tion, al, y, ty, ous, eous, ive etc.

Types of Suffix

(a) Consonant Suffix : ly, ness, ful, ment, less, er, ance, ing, est, ed,

(b) Vowel Suffix : es, ing, ed, ish, age, ly, less, ship, ment, ful, s

jump + ing	jump ing
happy + est	happ iest
act + ive	act ive
use + age	us age
Soft + ly	soft ly

color + ful	colourful
shiny + er	shinier
excite + able	excitable
fear + less	fearless
happen + ed	happened
slow + ly	slowly
big + est	biggest
leaf + es	leaves
hop + ing	hopping
swim + ing	swimming
baby + ish	babyish
art + ist	artist
peace + ful	peaceful
pain + ful	painful
state + ment	statement
job + less	jobless
replace + ment	replacement
quite + ly	quietly
fresh + ness	freshness
head + less	headless

argue + ment	argument
secure + ity	security
Intern + ship	Internship
clock + wise	clockwise
Music +al	musical
brave + ly	bravely
punish + ment	punishment
self + less	selfless
shy + ness	shyness
thank + ful	thankful
bold + ness	boldness
pain + ful	painful
end + less	endless
talk + ed	talked
ripe +n	ripen
employ + ment	employment
involve + ment	involvement
drive +r	driver
try + ied	tried

Rules for Adding Suffix

(1) Add a consonant suffix directly to the base word.

Mouth + ful = mouthful

Teach + er = teacher

Pitch + er = pitcher

(2) If the base word ends in two consonants, just add the vowel suffix.

jump + ing = jumping

(3) If the base word has 1 syllable, 1 short vowel, and 1 final consonant, double the final consonant before adding the vowel suffix.

or

When a word ends in a short vowel sound and a single consonant, you double the last letter.

Win + ing = winning

Shop + ed shopped

Swim + ing = swimming

(4) If the base word ends in a Silent E, drop the E before adding the vowel suffix.

Smile + ed = smiled

Drive + ing = driving

Hope + ing = hoping

Make + er = maker

Adore + able = adorable

Use + er = user

(5) If the base word ends in single y, change the y to i before adding suffix.

Silly + ness = silliness

Fly + ies = flies

Happy + ness = happiness

Army + s = armies

Duty + ful = dutiful

Carry + ed = carried

Deny + ied = denied

Rely + iable = reliable

Beauty + ful = beautiful

Angry + ily = angrily

(6) When a word has more than one syllable and ends with the letter "l" you will double the "l" when adding the suffix.

Cancel + ed = cancelled

Control + ed = controlled

Propel + er = propeller

Compel + ing = compelling

Fulfil + ment = fulfillment

(7) When the word ends in the letters "ce" or "ge," you will keep the final "e" if the suffix begins with the letters "a" or "o."

Advantage + ous = advantageous

Change + able = changeable

Courage + ous = courageous

Agree + ing = agreeing

Decree + ing = decreeing

Eye + ing = eyeing

Foresee + ing = foreseeing

See + ing = seeing

(9) When the word ends with "y" and has a vowel before it you keep the "y."

Boy + s = boys

Enjoy + ed = enjoyed

Play + ing = playing

Buy + er = buyer

Joy + ful = joyful

(10) keep the "y" is if the suffix starts with the letter "i." You cannot have two i's in a row.

Supply + ing = supplying

Marry + ing = marrying

(11) When a word ends in "ie," change the ending to a "y" when you add the suffix -ing.

Die + ing = dying

Tie + ing = tying

Untie + ing = untying

Lie + ing = lying

Suffixes can show if a word is a noun, an adjective, an adverb or a verb.

(12) Words ending in **vowels – no change with vowel suffixes.**

echo – echo**ed**

henna – henna**ed**

mascara – mascara**ed**

radio – radio**ed**

ski – ski**ed**

taxi – taxi**ed**

video – video**ed**

Noun suffixes: age, al, ance, ant, ate, ee, ence, ent, er, or, ar, ese, ess, hood, ice, ism, ist, ment, ness, sion, tain, tion, ure

Suffixes that form adjectives: able, al, er, est, ette, let, ful, fully, ible, ic, ical, ish, ive, less, ous, some, worthy

Suffixes that form adverbs: ly, wards, ways, wide, wise

Suffixes that create a verb form: ate, ed, en, ing, ise, ize, yze

(1) Change the **y** to **i** before vowel suffixes
(**except -ing**)

happy + er = happier

supply + ed = supplied

marry - married

rely - reliable,

(2) Change the
y to **i** before consonant suffixes

beauty + ful = beautiful

happy + ness = happiness

lonely - loneliness

empty - emptiness

necessary = necessarily

(3) Changing ie to y

die + ing = dying

tie + ing = tying

lie + ing = lying

employ – employer

buy – buyer

joy – joyful

enjoy – enjoying

have – having

make – making

love – lovable

move – movable

Advantage + ous = advantageous

Change + able = changeable

Courage + ous = courageous

Service + able = serviceable

(4) **y** remains if the word ends in a vowel + y

(5) Words ending in silent '**e**' + vowel suffix

(6) words ending in 'ce' or 'ge' keep the 'e' before -ous and -able

(7) keep the 'e' with consonant suffixes

hope + ful =hopeful

peace + ful = peaceful

use + ful =useful

waste + ful =wasteful

(8) Keep the 'e' when the word ends in ee or ye

agree – agreeing

eye- eyeing

see – seeing

(9) Keep the 'e' before -ly

accurate+ ly = accurately

like + ly = likely,

love+ ly = lovely,

definite + ly = definitely

home + ly = homely

(10) Words of 1 syllable ending in 1 vowel+ 1 consonant – double the last letter before a vowel suffix

shop – **shopped**

pot-potter

fat-fatter

(11) Words of more than 1 syllable ending in 1 vowel + 1 consonant when the **stress** is on the last syllable double up the last letter.

begin – beginning

commit – committed

forget – forgettable

(12) Words of more than 1 syllable ending in 1 vowel + **L** always double up the **L** before a vowel suffix

travel-travelled

cancel-cancelling

model-modelling

marvel – marvellous

expel – expelled

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Author of this website, Mrs Shilpi Nagpal is MSc (Hons, Chemistry) and BSc (Hons, Chemistry) from Delhi University, B.Ed (I. P. University) and has many years of experience in teaching. She has started this educational website with the mindset of spreading Free Education to everyone.

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