



Graphophonemic Knowledge | Morphemes: Prefixes and Suffixes

GK-80 Building Words Using Suffixes

Blackline Master available
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Students use suffixes with different root words to build real and nonsense words.

MATERIALS: *Word list, colored index cards, marker*

- 1 Teach the definition:
Suffixes are letter groups added to the end of a base or root word. They often tell the part of speech and sometimes add meaning.
- 2 Write commonly used suffixes and root words on colored index cards, one suffix or root per
- 3 Distribute a set of cards to each student or team.
- 4 Students rearrange the cards to build and then pronounce both real and nonsense words.

EXAMPLE: For additional suffixes, see VOC-25, pages 132-133.

Common Suffixes

The most frequently occurring suffixes in printed school English are inflectional endings, such as the noun endings *-s* and *-es*; verb endings *-ed*, *-ing* and *-en*; and adjective endings *-er* and *-est*.

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
ed	past tense	wanted, practiced, sneezed, baked, jumped
en	cause to be, made of	darken, strengthen, thicken, wooden, golden
er	more	lighter, smarter, quicker, meaner, greater
er, or	one who	teacher, painter, conductor, instructor
est	most	smartest, closest, quickest, biggest, loudest
ful	full of	joyful, fearful, careful, helpful, bashful
ible, able	is, can be	edible, incredible, likeable, comfortable
ing	form of a verb	laying, laughing, reading, talking, skipping
ly	characteristic of	friendly, slowly, badly, mostly, exactly
s, es	more than one, plural	boys, dogs, pencils, lunches, porches
tion, sion, ion	process	action, fascination, caution, tension, companion



PREPARATION OF MATERIALS: Print the Suffix Cards on one color of paper and the root Word Cards on different colored paper. Cut the cards apart. Follow the directions for play.

Suffix Cards		
ed	en	er
or	est	ful
ible	able	ing
ly	tion	ion

Root Word Cards
want
jump
thick
dark

Root Word Cards
teach
instruct
loud
fear

Root Word Cards
help
like
comfort
laugh

Root Word Cards
friend
act
discuss
light

ed

GK-80

en

GK-80

er

GK-80

or

GK-80

est

GK-80

ful

GK-80

ible

GK-80

able

GK-80

ing

GK-80

ly

GK-80

tion

GK-80

ion

GK-80

want

GK-80

jump

GK-80

thick

GK-80

dark

GK-80

teach

GK-80

instruct

GK-80

loud

GK-80

fear

GK-80

help

GK-80

like

GK-80

comfort

GK-80

laugh

GK-80

friend

GK-80

act

GK-80

discuss

GK-80

light

GK-80