
Michigan's Multi-Tiered System of Supports Technical Assistance Center
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20 Most Common Suffixes

The following table lists the most common suffixes in English. This list can provide guidance on instructional decisions for classroom instruction.

Suffix	Common Meaning	Examples	Percentage of all suffixed words
-s, -es	1. Plural noun 2. Present tense verb 3. Possessive adjective	1. Bikes, shoes 2. Leaps 3. Boy's, boys'	31%
-ed	1. Past tense verb 2. Descriptive adjective	1. Moved, screamed, jumped 2. grumpy	20%
-ing	1. Progressive tense verb 2. Descriptive adjective (the act of)	1. Walking 2. Leaping	14%
-ly	Adverb telling 'how, or having the qualities of'	Rapidly	7%
-er, -or	Person who ____ (noun)	Choreographer, Plumber	4%
-ion, -tion, -ation, -ition	Noun forming suffix (action, state, quality of being or result)	Competition, recommendation	4%
-able, ible	Adjective forming suffix (capable of, able to be)	Incredible, Reasonable	2%
-al, -ial	Adjective forming suffix (related to, of the kind of)	Social, musical	1%
-y	Adjective forming suffix (characterized by or full of)	Sunny, salty	1%
-ness	Noun forming suffix (indicates a state, quality or condition)	Shyness, Calmness	1%

-ity, -ty	Noun forming suffix (indicates a state, quality or condition)	Ability, Safety	1%
-ty	Ten (adjective forming suffix)	Forty, Seventy	1%
-ment	Noun forming suffix (indicates an action, result or state)	Movement	1%
-ic	Adjective forming suffix (related to, pertaining to, having the nature of)	Artistic	1%
-ous, -eous, -ious	Adjective forming suffix (full of)	Wonderous, nutritious	1%
-en	Verb forming suffix (to make or become, made of or like)	Harden,	1%
-er (comparative)	Comparative adjective forming suffix (noting an action)	Slower, lower	1%
-ive, -ative, -tive	Adjective forming suffix (describes qualities or tendencies)	Expansive, creative,	1%
-ful	Adjective forming suffix (full of ____)	Joyful, Helpful	1%
-less	Adjective forming suffix (without, having no ____)	Fearless, useless	1%
-est	Superlative adjective forming suffix (most)	Tallest, Happiest	1%

References

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