

suffixes

A **suffix** is a group of letters added to the end of a word. These word endings change words from one type of word to another, for example:

from a verb to a noun

from a noun to an adjective

from an adjective to an adverb

from an adjective to a verb

from an adjective to a noun

work + **-er** = **worker**

hope + **-less** = **hopeless**

quick + **-ly** = **quickly**

bright + **-en** = **brighten**

rough + **-ness** = **roughness**

Particular word endings can be added to make nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs. These endings can help you recognize which is which.

Suffixes that end nouns

-age	postage
-al	arrival
-ance	appearance
-ant	attendant
-dom	freedom
-ence	preference
-er	farmer
-ess	lioness
-ette	cigarette
-hood	childhood
-ian	musician
-ism	realism
-ist	artist
-ity	humanity
-let	booklet
-ling	duckling
-ment	punishment
-ness	kindness
-or	sailor
-tion	imagination
-y	honesty

Suffixes that end verbs

-ate	activate
-en	brighten
-ify, -fy	simplify
-ize or -ise	publicize

Suffixes that end adjectives

-able	lovable
-al	magical
-an	Italian
-ed	crooked
-ese	Chinese
-ful	helpful
-ible	edible
-ic	poetic
-ish	boyish
-less	homeless
-ous	dangerous
-uble	soluble
-y	spicy

Suffixes that end adverbs

-ly	happily
-ward	backward
-ways	sideways
-wise	clockwise