

Awesome Suffixes!

Suffixes are word parts that come at the end of a word. Knowing the meaning of a suffix can help you figure out what the word means.

cycl

ist

one who does
something

ship

ment

quality or act

act

ion

result of an act
or process

aqu

arium

a place for

system

ize

cause to
resemble

green

ish

relating to

vigor

ous

full of



SCHOLASTIC

Awesome Suffixes!

Getting Started

Your students probably know that many of the words they use are made up of two or more smaller words or word parts. Explain to them that a suffix is a meaningful group of letters that can be added at the end of a word to form a new word with a different but related meaning. Encourage students to shut their eyes and imagine a train with three separate cars. If the locomotive is the prefix, then the caboose is the suffix. The railroad car in the middle represents the base or root word. Knowing what suffixes mean will help students figure out the meaning of the word as a whole.

Let's take a look at a few more examples of some common suffixes. On the chalkboard, add the suffix *-er* (agent; instrument) to the word *paint* to form the word *painter*. Then have students add the following suffixes to the words below.

- hood** (state; condition) to *child* (childhood)
- dom** (domain; condition) to *free* (freedom)
- ness** (quality; state) to *dark* (darkness)
- less** (without; lacking) to *life* (lifeless)

Getting to Know Suffixes

Distribute a copy of the mini-chart on page 49 to each student. Have the class review the seven words that appear on the chart. Then divide students into two teams. Provide each team with several minutes to brainstorm as many different words as they can that use the same suffix. After they have finished, have the two teams compare the words they have brainstormed. The team with the most words is the winner.

Here are a few examples using each suffix:

-ous	venomous thunderous furious	-ment	amazement refreshment disappointment
-arium	terrarium planetarium	-ist	artist violinist pianist

-ion	disruption eruption situation	-ize	itemize motorize winterize
-ish	bluish sheepish biggish		

What Does It Mean?

Write each group of words below on the chalkboard. Ask a student to read all the words in one word group. Then invite volunteers to name the base word or root of each word in the group. Discuss the meanings of the words. Finally, ask students to figure out what the suffix for each group means.

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. vegetarian | humanitarian | librarian |
| 2. original | natural | political |
| 3. failure | closure | exposure |

Suffix Practice

The two reproducibles provide a good way for students to start thinking about how suffixes can be used in words. Point out that knowing the meaning of a particular suffix helps unlock the meaning of new and more challenging words.

Answers: Page 51: affectionate, blockade, breakable, sharpen, different, freedom, thankful, Japanese, heroism, idolize, placement, westward, otherwise, abnormality, attractive Page 52: shortness: state or quality of; state of being short; dusty: state or quality of: covered with dust; droplet: small in size; small drop; baker: one who does; one who bakes: wisdom: state or fact of being; state of being wise; childish: relating to; like a child; mournful: full of; full of mourning; bothersome: characterized by; causing a bother; northern: state or quality of; state of being north; affectionate: state or quality of; state or quality of showing affection

Name _____ Date _____

Suffix Addition

Each base word below is missing a suffix. Choose the suffix from the box that can be added to each word. Write the word formed and its meaning in the spaces provided. There is only one correct answer for each. Use a dictionary to check your answers.

-ate

-ent

-ity

-ize

-dom

-ism

-ade

-ful

-wise

-ment

-ive

-ese

-able

-en

-ward

Base Word	Suffix	Word Formed	Meaning
affection			
block			
break			
sharp			
differ			
free			
thank			
Japan			
hero			
idol			
place			
west			
other			
abnormal			
attract			

Name _____ Date _____

Suffix Sleuth

Find and underline the suffix in each word. Write what it means on the first line. Then use what you know about the suffix meaning to write the definition of the word on the second line. Check your answers with a dictionary.

1. shortness _____

6. childish _____

2. dusty _____

7. mournful _____

3. droplet _____

8. bothersome _____

4. baker _____

9. northern _____

5. wisdom _____

10. affectionate _____
