

Adjective Suffixes

Activity Sheet (page 1/2)

Suffixes are groups of letters which are placed at the end of a word to make a new word. Although this activity sheet focuses on some of the most common Adjective Suffixes, the following spelling rules generally apply when forming most other Suffixes too.

1. When adding a vowel suffix to (most) words ending in 'e', the 'e' is dropped:
reverse -> reversible
Exceptions: If a word ends in 'ce' or 'ge', and with some suffixes starting with 'a', keep the 'e'.
2. When a 'y' ending is preceded by a consonant, change the 'y' to an 'i' and add the suffix:
beauty -> beautiful
Exceptions: If the 'y' is preceded by a vowel, or if 'ing' is added, don't change it to an 'i'.
3. When a single consonant ending is preceded by a short vowel, double the consonant:
fun -> funny
Exceptions: If a word ends in 'w' or 'x', the consonant is not doubled.

A. Here are some common Adjective Suffixes. Write them next to their meanings below and in the sample sentences next to them.

y ful al able / ible less ous ish

1. able to be e.g. His story was believ....., This is imposs.....
2. relating to e.g. He's a politic..... leader.
3. without e.g. After losing my phone and wallet, I felt help.....
4. full of e.g. A pocket knife is a use..... thing to have.
5. having/full of e.g. Bananas are a nutriti..... food.
6. being characterised by e.g. It was a wet and rain..... day.
7. having the quality of e.g. Don't be so child.....

B. Complete the sentences using the words in brackets with a suitable Adjective Suffix.

1. It was a (magic) evening. We all had a (wonder) time.
2. Ann is a lovely girl. She's very (help) and (rely).
3. Be (care) driving home. The roads are very (ice) tonight.
4. She wears (fashion) clothes and always looks very (style)
5. The rose, England's (nation) flower, comes in many (beauty) colours.
6. Although most spiders are (harm), they make many people (nerve)
7. The food at the restaurant was (taste), and quite (afford) too.

C. Adjectives ending 'ing' and 'ed' can be used to describe people and things. Those ending in 'ing' describe the source of a feeling, whilst those ending in 'ed' describe how something makes one feel. Complete the sentences below by adding 'ing' or 'ed'.

1. The lesson wasn't interest....., so I was very bor.....
2. I felt very frustrat..... after receiving such disappoint..... exam results.
3. I couldn't sleep after watching the frighten..... film last night, so I'm very tir..... today.
4. This homework is so confus....., I'll be surpris..... if any of my answers are correct.
5. When I heard that he'd left the kids alone at home, I was annoy..... and worri.....

D. Complete the sentences using one of the words below with a suitable Adjective Suffix.

consider disgust excite recycle juice mess self

1. His room is really because he never tidies it.
2. When we told the kids they were going to the zoo, they were very
3. The hurricane caused damage to the house.
4. The berries had just been picked, and were very sweet and
5. He never thinks of other people. He's a very man.
6. The meal was so that we couldn't eat any of it.
7. Don't throw those bottles away. They're

E. With a partner, complete the list of prompts below, using suitable Adjective Suffixes. Afterwards, chat with one another and try and agree on two things for each prompt.

Write down two...

1. Things that are indestruct.....,
2. Jobs that are very stress.....,
3. Things you need to be care..... of when travelling
4. Habits that you find very annoy..... in others
5. Things that many people are frighten..... of
6. Sports that are very danger.....,
7. Use..... and unnecessary inventions
8. Numbers that are divis..... by 19
9. Extremely bor..... conversation topics
10. Things that are poison..... and can't be eaten