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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
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SUFFIXES

A **suffix** is a group of letters placed at the **end** of a word to make a **new** word. A suffix can make a new word in one of two ways:

1. **Inflectional** (grammatical): for example, changing singular to plural (dog → dogs), or changing present tense to past tense (walk → walked). In this case, the basic meaning of the word does not change.
2. **Derivational**: the new word acquires a new meaning (the function of word also changes), ("derived" from the original word): for example, teach → teacher or care → careful

A suffix goes at the end of a word. A prefix goes at the beginning.

Inflectional suffixes

Inflectional suffixes do not change the **meaning of the original word**. So in "Every day I walk to school" and "Yesterday I walked to school", the words **walk** and **walked** have the same basic meaning. In "I have one car" and "I have two cars", the basic meaning of the words **car** and **cars** is exactly the same. In these cases, the suffix is added simply for grammatical "correctness". Look at these examples:

Suffix	Grammatical change	Example	
		Original word	Suffixed word
-s	plural	Dog	Dogs
-s	3 rd person singular present	like	likes
-ed	Past tense	work	worked
	Past participle (regular)		Has worked
-en	Past participle (irregular)	eat	Has eaten
-ing	Progressive/continuous	sleep	Is sleeping
-er	Comparative	big	bigger
-est	Superlative	big	biggest

Derivational suffixes

With derivational suffixes, the new word has a new **meaning**, and is usually a different **part of speech**. But the new meaning is related to the old meaning - it is "derived" from the old meaning.

Derive (verb) + ation → derivation (noun) + al → derivational (adjective)

There are several hundred derivational suffixes. Here are some of the more common ones:

Suffix	Making	Example		
-ation	Nouns	Explore	Exploration	
		Determine	Determination	
-sion		Persuade	Persuasion	
		Divide	Division	
-er		Teach	Teacher	
-cian		Music	Musician	
-ess		God	Goddess	
-ness		Sad	Sadness	
-al		Arrive	Arrival	
-ary		Diction	Dictionary	
-ment		Treat	Treatment	
-dom		Bore	Boredom	
-y		Jealous	Jealousy	
-hood		Brother	Brotherhood	
-ism		Capital	Capitalism	
-ship		Friend	Friendship	
-ee		Employ	Employee	
-age		bag	Baggage	
-al		Adjectives	Accident	Accidental
-ary			Imagine	Imaginary
-ly	Scholar		Scholarly	
-y	Ease		Easy	
-ful	Sorrow		Sorrowful	
-ity	Equal		equality	

-able		Drink	Drinkable
-ic		Class	Classic
-some		Whole	Wholesome
-ly	Adverbs	Helpful	Helpfully
-ward		Down	Downward
-wise		Clock	Clockwise
-ize	Verbs	Private	Privatize
-ify		Beauty	Beautify
-en		Soft	Soften

The suffix “-er” can convert almost any verb into the person or things performing the action of the verb.

For example:

A teacher is a person who teaches

A lover is one, who loves,

An observer is the one who observes

The suffix “-ing” refers to an activity and it can be used as either a part of the verb or as a noun.
e.g.:

Read + ing:

Reading is a learning activity.

We are **reading** the paper aloud.

I like **reading** the paper aloud.

Without reading we can't grow further in academics.

FINDINGS:

By studying we can make new words and use them in purposefully. We may have more of the examples if we can refer to standard grammar books which have a different purpose. For example:

Showing action: -ate, -en, -ite, and -ize

The suffixes -ate, -en, -ite, and -ize all mean "to make or do." Examples of words using these suffixes include *alienate, liberate, weaken, moisten, unite, ignite, visualize, and sanitize*. As we may have noticed, each of these words is a verb (a word that conveys action).

Like just about every other word element in English, suffixes have multiple meanings and can change the definition of a word. For example, the suffix -ite, when it means "to make" or "do," creates verbs. However, -ite can also mean "one who." In this case, the suffix creates a noun (socialite, for example). Always examine the word in context, and if we're not sure, consult a dictionary.

Adding amounts: -s, -es, and others

How many of a certain thing do you have? One? More than one? To indicate number, we use suffixes. In particular, we use the following suffixes: *-s* and *-es*. By attaching these suffixes to a singular noun (*house, tree, boat, and box, for example*), we make the noun plural (*houses, trees, boats, and boxes*).

Of course, not all English plurals are made by adding a simple *-s* or *-es*. Sometimes the ending of the word is changed in other ways. *Child*, for example, becomes *children*. *Ox* becomes *oxen*. And then you have the ever-popular Latin words that retain their Latin plurals: *Radius* becomes *radii*, and *alumna* becomes *alumnae*.

Bibliography:

1. Internet sources
2. Dept. of English, YA Govt. Degree College (W), Chirala

Signature of supervising teacher