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Nouns are words that refer to *people, places, and things*. We use **suffixes** to make new words. For example, we can add a suffix to a verb and create a noun – adding ‘-ion’ to the verb ‘act’ gives us the noun ‘action.’

Thus, a **suffix** is a letter or group of letters added to the *end* of a word. Suffixes are commonly used to show the part of speech of a word (a noun, adjective, verb, etc.). Suffixes also tell us whether the words are [plural or singular](#).

Word  Suffix

via <https://www.myenglishteacher.eu/blog/prefixes-suffixes-list/>

Suffixes go on the end of words.

- *They always arrive late on Wednesdays. (verb)*
- *The **arrival** of a new puppy made everyone happy. (noun)*

By adding *-al*, the verb ‘arrive’ becomes a noun.

Here are some other examples of nouns ending in *-al*:

Root Word	Noun	Meaning
<i>profession</i>	<i>professional</i>	Related to the action of a verb
<i>approve</i>	<i>approval</i>	
<i>deny</i>	<i>denial</i>	

Thus, suffixes can determine the word's part of speech. Certain suffixes make the base or root word a noun, a verb, an adjective, or even an adverb. For example, look at the base word 'real', which is an adjective. Add the suffix '-ity' to get 'reality', which is a noun. Add '-ize' to make it 'realize', which is a verb. Last, add '-ly' to make it 'really', which is an adverb.

Noun suffix meanings

There are other suffixes that we can use to create nouns, such as *-tion/-ation*, *-ness*, *-ity*, *-ment*, *-ship*, *-ance/ence*, *-er/or*, *-ian*, *-ist*, and many more. We can divide them into several main groups to distinguish them by meaning.

Nouns describing professions or activities

Nouns describing people doing some activity (often an occupation) and people experiencing some activity (suffix *-ee*).

Suffix Example

<i>-ant</i>	<i>assistant, participant</i>
<i>-ee</i>	<i>attendee, referee, grantee</i>
<i>-ent</i>	<i>correspondent, respondent</i>
<i>-(e)er</i>	<i>engineer, manager</i>
<i>-ian</i>	<i>librarian, historian</i>
<i>-ic</i>	<i>mechanic, paramedic</i>
<i>-ician</i>	<i>mathematician, politician</i>
<i>-or</i>	<i>supervisor, survivor</i>
<i>-ist</i>	<i>Marxist, capitalist (followers of philosophies)</i>

- *I don't think I am a good **writer**.*
- *She works as a **biologist** for a research company.*

Nouns describing devices

These suffixes denote equipment, appliances, or devices.

Suffix Example

-er *condenser, opener*

-or *alternator, razor*

- *Today we can't live without **computers**.*

Nouns describing abstracts

These suffixes can denote abstract notions or concepts, feelings and emotions.

Suffix Example

-age *mileage, percentage*

-al *disposal, proposal*

-ance/-ence *appearance, attendance, dependence*

-ation *information, transformation*

-dom *freedom, kingdom*

-iety *society, variety*

-ism *capitalism, idealism (philosophies)*

-ity *density, diversity*

-ment *agreement, statement*

-ness *usefulness, weakness*

-ship *membership, relationship*

-sion *conclusion, explosion*

-ure *exposure, failure*

-th *breadth, length*

- *I do not like taking public **transportation** in this city.*
- *No one knows what **happiness** really is.*
- ***Equality** between different groups is important for the future of the country.*
- *His **preference** for tea over coffee surprised me.*

Tips to learn noun suffixes

1. Some suffixes have more than one meaning. For example, the suffix *-er* may denote a person who performs an action (a *teacher*) or a device (a *computer*).
2. Unlike [prefixes](#), the spelling of a base word can *change* when a suffix is added. This is true of most base words ending in the letter 'y.' For instance, when we add the suffix *-ness* to the word 'crazy' to make 'craziness,' we replace the 'y' with an 'i.'

Spelling Tips

Often, the suffix causes a spelling change to the original word. The following changes may occur:

Dropping letters

The final *-e* is dropped:

- *argue - argument.*

Changing 'y' to 'i'

In words that end in '-y', the 'y' becomes an 'i':

- *deny - denial*
- *happy - happiness*

Changing '-le' to '-il'

- *able, possible + -ity → ability, possibility*

Changing '-t' to '-ss'

- *permit, omit + -ion → permission, omission*

Suffixes can help expand your vocabulary. For example, if you know the word '*happy*' or '*create*', you can use that to understand and use new words like '*happiness*' and '*creativity*'.

Check out this video from LikWhat? to get the general idea of noun formation and common suffix meanings:

Read more on this topic:

[Noun Formation: Common Prefixes](#)

[Verb Formation: Common Prefixes and Suffixes](#)

[Adjective Formation: Common Prefixes and Suffixes](#)

[How to Form Adverbs](#)