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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](#).



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*:

<b>Root Word</b>	<b>Noun</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<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

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

- *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.

<b>Suffix</b>	<b>Example</b>
-age	<i>mileage, percentage</i>
-al	<i>disposal, proposal</i>
-ance/-ence	<i>appearance, attendance, dependence</i>
-ation	<i>information, transformation</i>
-dom	<i>freedom, kingdom</i>
-iety	<i>society, variety</i>
-ism	<i>capitalism, idealism (philosophies)</i>
-ity	<i>density, diversity</i>
-ment	<i>agreement, statement</i>
-ness	<i>usefulness, weakness</i>
-ship	<i>membership, relationship</i>
-sion	<i>conclusion, explosion</i>
-ure	<i>exposure, failure</i>
-th	<i>breadth, length</i>

- *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](#)