

## Unit 3: Suffixes (3)

A suffix is a letter or group of letters that can be added to the end of a word to change its meaning.

**Suffixes** can begin with a **vowel sound**. Here are some examples:

**-ing -ed -er -est -ible -able**  
**-ion -ian -ant -ent -ous -y**

Remember, **y** is unusual because it's a consonant letter but it sounds like a vowel in some words, like 'shiny'.

Suffixes can also begin with a **consonant**. Here are some examples:

**-ful -less -ment**  
**-ness -ly**

Before we add a suffix we *always* have to think about whether we need to make any changes to the root word first. **Swap, double** or **drop**?

Let's do some word building with the suffixes that begin with a consonant: **-ful** and **-less**. Remember to look out for whether we are swapping, doubling or dropping any letters.:

root word	root word + suffix
power	power <b>less</b>
care	care <b>less</b>
flavour	flavour <b>less</b>
hope	hope <b>ful</b>
thought	thought <b>ful</b>

Did the root words need to be changed before we added **-less** and **-ful**?

The answer is 'no'. There were no letters to swap, double or drop from the root words because the suffixes began with a consonant.

Now let's do some word building with more suffixes that begin with a consonant: **-ment** and **-ness**.

Remember to look out for whether we need to swap, double or drop any letters.

root word	root word + suffix
arrange	arrangement
amaze	amazement
achieve	achievement
replace	replacement
sad	sadness
mean	meanness
plain	plainness
late	lateness

Did the root words need to be changed before we added **-ment** and **-ness**?

The answer is 'no' – there were no letters to swap, double or drop from the root words because the suffixes began with a consonant.

So amaz**e** became amaz**ement** with the final **e** in the root word still there and mean**n** became mean**ness** with the final **n** in the root word still there.

### Weird Word Warning

For some words ending in **y** we swap the **y** for an **i** before adding the suffixes **-less**, **-ful**, **-ness** and **-ment**:

pity + less = pit**il**ess  
 beaut**y** + ful = beaut**if**ul  
 laz**y** + ness = laz**i**ness  
 merr**y** + ment = merr**i**ment

Now let's do some word building with our last suffix that begins with a consonant: **-ly**. Remember to look out for whether we need to swap, double or drop any letters.

root word	root word + suffix
normal	normally
strange	strangely
leisure	leisurely
definite	definitely
neighbour	neighbourly

There were no letters to swap, double or drop from the root words because the suffix began with a consonant. If a suffix starts with a **consonant**, it is added onto most root words without any changes to the last letters of those words.

Some words can have two suffixes added to them at the same time! Take a look...

thought  
 thought + **ful** = thoughtful  
 thoughtful + **ly** = thoughtfully

care  
 care + **less** = careless  
 careless + **ly** = carelessly

Did you notice that adding **-ly** to these words has changed them into adverbs?

