

Lesson  
9**Base Words and Suffixes**

Teaching

One way to understand a word's meaning is to break it down into its different word parts. A **base word** is a complete word that can stand alone. A **suffix** is a word part that appears at the end of a base word, altering its meaning or part of speech. Note that sometimes when a suffix is added to a base word, the base word changes slightly or loses a letter to accommodate the suffix.

For example, consider the word *describing*.

The base word *describe* means "to convey an idea or impression."

The suffix *-ing* indicates an ongoing or progressive action.

**describing = describe + ing.**

When the word parts are combined, *describing* means "conveying an idea."

The chart below lists seven common suffixes and their effects on base words.

Suffix	Effect on Base Word	Examples
-s/-es	changes the number of a noun (from one to more than one)	pencil + s = pencils, diary + es = diaries
-d/-ed	changes verb tense (from present to past)	manage + d = managed, study + ed = studied
-en	changes verb tense (to past participle)	eat + en = eaten, write + en = written
-ing	changes verb tense (ongoing action)	dress + ing = dressing, describe + ing = describing
-er	changes the degree of comparison in modifiers (more but not most)	warm + er = warmer, sturdy + er = sturdier
-est	changes the degree of comparison in modifiers (the most)	long + est = longest, happy + est = happiest
-y	changes part of speech (from noun to adjective)	soap + y = soapy, fun + y = funny

**A. Identifying Base Words and Suffixes**

For each example, draw a line between the base word and suffix. Then choose the correct definition of the word from the options given.

1. silky      a) adjective formed from silk      b) more silk      c) past participle of silk
2. relaxed      a) progressive tense of relax      b) past participle of relax      c) past tense of relax
3. carpets      a) more than one carpet      b) adjective formed from carpet      c) past tense of carpet
4. hidden      a) progressive tense of hide      b) past participle of hide      c) past tense of hide
5. freezing      a) past tense of freeze      b) adjective formed from freeze      c) progressive tense of freeze
6. tripped      a) more than one trip      b) the most trips      c) past tense of trip
7. lovelier      a) more lovely than something      b) the most lovely      c) past participle of lovely
8. belonging      a) more than one belonging      b) progressive tense of belong      c) adjective formed from belong
9. cherries      a) past tense of cherry      b) past participle of cherry      c) more than one cherry
10. mightiest      a) the most mighty      b) more mighty      c) progressive tense of mighty

**Base Words and Suffixes**

More Practice

**B. Base Words and Suffixes in Action**

For each item, underline the word that correctly completes the sentence.

1. The (rockied, rocky) path led us to our camp.
2. After we had (eaten, eating) the chicken wings, we started in on the pizza.
3. I (divides, divided) the apple in two and gave a half to each child.
4. He (shocked, shocking) everyone when he got the best grade in class.
5. The two-headed chicken is the (strangest, stranger) attraction in the circus.
6. Place those five (box, boxes) on top of the table in the corner.
7. Today is much (coldest, colder) than yesterday.
8. When she opened the door, the (liveliest, lively) of the three puppies jumped into her arms.
9. They have (taked, taken) away the garbage cans from the park.
10. What are you going to do on this beautiful, (sunny, sunning) day?

**C. Vocabulary Challenge**

Add two suffixes to each base word to create two new words. Use these suffixes: -s, /-es, -d/-ed, -ing, -en, -est, or -y. Then write a sentence using one of the new words. Remember, you may need to change the spelling of the base word.

**EXAMPLE** base word sun new word sunny new word sunning  
*Monica was known to have a sunny personality.*

1. base word skate new word \_\_\_\_\_ new word \_\_\_\_\_

2. base word bite new word \_\_\_\_\_ new word \_\_\_\_\_

3. base word bright new word \_\_\_\_\_ new word \_\_\_\_\_

4. base word milk new word \_\_\_\_\_ new word \_\_\_\_\_

5. base word trick new word \_\_\_\_\_ new word \_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson  
2**

# More silent *e* words and suffixes

*Teaching*

sincere	sincer <u>e</u> ly	hope	hop <u>i</u> ng	place	plac <u>e</u> ment
secure	secur <u>e</u> ly	care	care <u>f</u> ul	measure	measur <u>e</u> ment
active	activ <u>e</u> ly	forgive	for <u>g</u> iv <u>a</u> ble	involve	involv <u>i</u> ng
separate	separ <u>e</u> ly	like	lik <u>e</u> ness	amaze	amaz <u>i</u> ng
name	nam <u>i</u> ng	move	mov <u>a</u> ble	advance	advanc <u>i</u> ng
close	clos <u>e</u> ly	require	requir <u>e</u> ment	improve	improv <u>i</u> ng
waste	wast <u>i</u> ng	settle	sett <u>i</u> ng		

**Lesson Generalization:** When you add a suffix beginning with a vowel to a word ending in silent **e**, drop the **e**. When you add a suffix beginning with a consonant to a word ending in silent **e**, keep the **e**.

**A.** Write the base form of each word. Then add the **ing** suffix to the base form.

	Base Form	<b>ing</b> Form
1. involvement	_____	_____
2. improvement	_____	_____
3. namely	_____	_____
4. settlement	_____	_____
5. advancement	_____	_____
6. amazement	_____	_____
7. measurement	_____	_____
8. forgivable	_____	_____

**B.** Write the **-ed** form of the following words from the spelling list. Use the rule presented in the Lesson Generalization to help you determine the correct spelling.

1. separately	_____	8. requirement	_____
2. closely	_____	9. placement	_____
3. hoping	_____	10. involving	_____
4. likeness	_____	11. careful	_____
5. securely	_____	12. movable	_____
6. naming	_____	13. settling	_____
7. wasting	_____	14. measurement	_____



**Lesson  
2**
**Final silent *e* words and more suffixes**
*More Practice*

- |               |            |                |                 |               |
|---------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. sincerely  | 5. naming  | 9. careful     | 13. requirement | 17. involving |
| 2. securely   | 6. closely | 10. forgivable | 14. settling    | 18. amazing   |
| 3. activity   | 7. wasting | 11. likeness   | 15. placement   | 19. advancing |
| 4. separately | 8. hoping  | 12. movable    | 16. measurement | 20. improving |

**A.** Unscramble each group of words to make a complete sentence. Be sure to use correct capitalization and punctuation. Circle the spelling words in each sentence.

1. two was amazing the between likeness the cousins.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. food forgivable good is never wasting.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. the careful was dancer to practice every placement foot .

\_\_\_\_\_

4. all securely the objects sailor fastened movable.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. pleased the sincerely is coach improving by Lyle's work.

\_\_\_\_\_

**B.** Find and circle 14 words from the spelling list in the following puzzle. Hint: All words are written horizontally or vertically, either forward or backward.

M	S	I	N	C	E	R	E	L	Y	K	B
E	E	N	A	F	C	L	O	S	E	L	Y
A	L	V	M	O	V	A	B	L	E	B	L
S	X	O	I	G	N	I	T	S	A	W	E
U	Y	L	N	T	W	K	A	M	P	Z	T
R	L	V	G	N	I	C	N	A	V	D	A
E	E	I	Q	V	P	L	I	M	H	C	R
M	R	N	U	R	N	D	W	A	P	H	A
E	U	G	N	I	P	O	H	Z	K	M	P
N	C	I	M	P	R	O	V	I	N	G	E
T	E	S	S	R	Z	T	H	N	J	I	S
I	S	E	T	T	L	I	N	G	A	X	W