

Grammar - Suffixes

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Many of us that attended government school were not taught that suffixes or word endings will frequently give a clue as to what part of speech a word may belong (e.g., noun, verb, adjective, adverb). Yet, this is a relatively simple way in which to easily recognize what part of speech a word may belong.

Week #4

Briefly review, via flashcards, noun/verb definitions, noun/verb tests, and suffixes from Week #1, #2, and #3.

Sometimes, adjectives change their form to show different degrees.

Example:

A rabbit is small. (positive degree)

A squirrel is smaller**er** than a rabbit. (comparative degree)

A mouse is the smallest**est** of the three. (superlative degree)

Positive Degree Definition: Used to express a quality without comparing.
Adjective. Example: pretty, small, soft

Comparative Degree Definition: Used to express a higher or lower degree of change. Adjective. Did you notice the letters - **er** in the word Comparative? It is used when two (2) objects are compared. Did you notice the letters - **er** have only TWO (2) letters?

Examples: prettier**er**, smaller**er**, softer**er**

Superlative Degree Definition: Used to express the highest or lowest degree of change. Adjective. Did you notice the letters - **est** in the word Superlative? It is used when three (3) or more objects are compared. Did you notice the letters - **est** have THREE (3) letters?

Examples: pretti**est**, smallest**est**, soft**est**

Rule #1: Words of one syllable, and most of those ending in - **le** or - **y** form the comparative and superlative by adding either - **er** or - **est** to the positive. Example: pretty, prettier**er**, pretti**est**; small, smaller**er**, smallest**est**; soft, softer**er**, soft**est**

Exercise: Verbally or in writing, form the comparative and superlative of the following adjectives.

Ex: small, smaller, smallest

positive

***- er
comparative
(2 letters)***

***- est
superlative
(3 letters)***

wise

large

great

nice

hot

loud

tall

wide

broad

sweet

cold

hard

neat

high

polite

soft

cool

warm

positive

**- er
comparative
(2 letters)**

**- est
superlative
(3 letters)**

slow

humble

brave

dim

big

wet

red

strong

thick

wild

tame

narrow

white

far

- er

adjective suffix

red alert ! we will use this suffix again !

e.g., taller**er**, shorter**er**, smarter**er**, richer**er**, sweeter**er**, cleverer**er**, wiser**er**, friendlier**er**

- est

adjective suffix

e.g., tallest**est**, shortest**est**, smartest**est**, richest**est**, sweetest**est**, cleverest**est**, wisest**est**, friendliest

- or

noun -- one who suffix

e.g., actor**or**, impostor**or**, counsellor**or**, aggressor**or**, director**or**, editor**or**, agitator**or**, assessor**or**, annotator**or**, conspirator**or**, inspector**or**, navigator**or**, aviator**or**, decorator**or**, nominator**or**

- ate

verb suffix

e.g., recuperate**ate**, dictate**ate**, discriminate**ate**, reinstate**ate**, eliminate**ate**, prostrate**ate**, decorate**ate**, dominate**ate**, nominate**ate**

Exercise: Verbally or in writing, form the **comparative** and **superlative** of the following adjectives. **Red Alert!** -- when the word ends in **y**, drop the **y** replacing it with **i** before adding on the **- er** or **- est** adjective suffix.

positive

- er
comparative
(2 letters)

- est
superlative
(3 letters)

noisy

hasty

juicy

happy

pretty

petty

busy

silly

crazy

lazy

seedy

jolly

tiny

wealthy

flashy

weary

greedy

Rule #2: Words of more than one syllable form the **comparative** and superlative by placing **more** (for **-er**) or **most** (for **-est**) before the positive word. Did you notice the word **more** has the letters **-er** and **most** has the letters **-st**?

Exercise: Verbally or in writing, form the **comparative** and **superlative** of the following adjectives.

Example: beautiful, **more** beautiful, **most** beautiful

<u>positive</u>	<u>more (-er)</u> comparative	<u>most (-est)</u> superlative
skilful	_____	_____
handsome	_____	_____
eminent	_____	_____
spiteful	_____	_____
agreeable	_____	_____
industrious	_____	_____
ample	_____	_____
flexible	_____	_____
partial	_____	_____
loyal	_____	_____
important	_____	_____
honest	_____	_____
ignorant	_____	_____
intelligent	_____	_____
comprehensive	_____	_____
truthful	_____	_____

Exercise: Verbally or in writing, form the comparative and superlative of the following adjectives.

Example: beautiful, **more** beautiful, **most** beautiful

silent	_____	_____
diligent	_____	_____
comfortable	_____	_____
fertile	_____	_____

Irregular Adjective Comparison

<i><u>positive</u></i>	<i><u>comparative</u></i>	<i><u>superlative</u></i>
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
evil	worse	worst
ill	worse	worst

NOTE: Some adjectives cannot be compared, e.g., square, supreme, perpendicular

Remember:

Comparative compares two (2) objects (hence the 2 letter suffix - **er**), is an adjective, and will use either - **er** or **more**.

Superlative compares three (3) or more objects (hence the 3 letter suffix - **est**), is an adjective, and will use either - **est** or **most**.

Exercise: Verbally or in writing, provide the correct adjective in the following sentences.

1. Who is (taller, tallest), you or your brother?
2. The (smarter, smartest) of the three suits me best.
3. Take the (larger, largest) of the two.
4. Of these two girls, the (older, oldest) is the (wiser, wisest).
5. Which is the (larger, largest), New York or Pennsylvania?
6. Which is the (farther, farthest) from your home, Philadelphia or New York?

Exercise: Verbally or in writing, provide the correct adjective in the following sentences.

1. This book is (bigger, biggest) than that.
2. Gracie is the (more beautiful, most beautiful) of the three girls.
3. Peter is the (shorter, shortest) of the group.
4. Jennifer is the (richer, richest) in bubble gum than all five of the children.
5. This chocolate covered strawberry is (sweeter, sweetest) than that one.
6. The spider is (cleverer, cleverest) at spinning than the toad.
7. The industrious ant is (wiser, wisest) than the grasshopper that prefers to play.
8. Rex is the (friendlier, friendliest) of the seven dogs.

The adjective suffix - **er** is a **red alert !** Why? Later you will learn how to use the - **er** suffix for another part of speech.

- or = noun suffix: one who

The **- or** is quite a fun suffix to use. Its part of speech is a **noun - one who** does something (verb). Take the word **actor**. The **-or** suffix indicates that this person is *one who* acts.

Exercise: Verbally or in writing, complete the following.

Ex: counsell**or** is *one who* counsels; director**or** is *one who* directs

Noun

One who (verb)

counsell**or**

act**or**

director**or**

edit**or**

agitator**or**

assess**or**

annotator**or**

conspirator**or**

inspect**or**

navigator**or**

aviator**or**

decorator**or**

nominator**or**

conductor**or**

Two tricky ones for you !

impost**or**

aggressor**or**

Flashcards: Cut on the solid lines and fold on the dotted line.

Front

Back

<p>Positive Degree Definition</p> <p>© Beverly Schmitt 1997-2002, all rights reserved</p>	<p>Adjective</p> <p>Used to express a quality without comparing.</p> <p>Ex: pretty, small, soft</p>
<p>Comparative Degree Definition</p> <p>© Beverly Schmitt 1997-2002, all rights reserved</p>	<p>Adjective -- Used to express a higher/lower degree of change. The letters -er are in the word Comparative. Used when two (2) objects are compared. The letters er have only TWO (2) letters. Use more when word longer than one syllable</p> <p>Ex: prettier, more beautiful</p>
<p>Superlative Degree Definition</p> <p>© Beverly Schmitt 1997-2002, all rights reserved</p>	<p>Adjective -- Used to express the highest/lowest degree of change. The letters -est are in the word Superlative. Used when three (3) plus objects are compared. The letters est have only THREE (3) letters. Use most when word longer than one syllable</p> <p>Ex: prettiest, most beautiful</p>
<p>When a word ends in y, how do you add on the adjective suffix - er or -est?</p> <p>© Beverly Schmitt 1997-2002, all rights reserved</p>	<p>When the word ends in y, drop the y replacing it with i before adding on the - er or - est adjective suffix.</p> <p>Ex: pretty, prettier, prettiest; ugly, uglier, ugliest</p>

Flashcards: Cut on the solid lines and fold on the dotted line.

Front

Back

- er	adjective suffix Comparative compares two (2) objects. Notice -er has two (2) letters. Words longer than one syllable use the word more Ex: nicer, more beautiful
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- est	adjective suffix Superlative compares three (3) or more objects. Notice -est has three (3) letters. Words longer than one syllable use the word most Ex: nicest, most beautiful
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- or	noun suffix: one who Ex: counsellor, actor, director, editor, agitator, assessor, annotator, conspirator, navigator, inspector, aviator, decorator, nominator, conductor, impostor, aggressor
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- ate	verb suffix Ex: recuperate, dictate, discriminate, reinstate, eliminate, prostrate, decorate, dominate, nominate
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Week #4 - Suffix Test

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Directions: Circle the correct part of speech

1. taller

noun verb adjective adverb

2. cleverest

noun verb adjective adverb

3. director

noun verb adjective adverb

4. decorate

noun verb adjective adverb

5. more beautiful

noun verb adjective adverb

6. most conspicuous

noun verb adjective adverb

7. decorator

noun verb adjective adverb

8. recuperate

noun verb adjective adverb

9. crazier

noun verb adjective adverb

10. silliest

noun verb adjective adverb

11. counsellor

noun verb adjective adverb

12. dictate

noun verb adjective adverb

13. elder

noun verb adjective adverb

14. oldest

noun verb adjective adverb

15. editor

noun verb adjective adverb

16. discriminate

noun verb adjective adverb

17. seedier

noun verb adjective adverb

18. happiest

noun verb adjective adverb

19. aviator

noun verb adjective adverb

20. reinstate

noun verb adjective adverb

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Week #4 - Suffix Test

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Answers

1. adjective
2. adjective
3. noun - one who
4. verb
5. adjective
6. adjective
7. noun - one who
8. verb
9. adjective
10. adjective
11. noun - one who
12. verb
13. adjective
14. adjective
15. noun - one who
16. verb
17. adjective
18. adjective
19. noun - one who
20. verb

Week #4 - Suffix Cumulative Test

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Directions: Circle the correct part of speech

1. illusion

noun verb adjective adverb

2. establishment

noun verb adjective adverb

3. candidness

noun verb adjective adverb

4. selected

noun verb adjective adverb

5. reliable

noun verb adjective adverb

6. lawless

noun verb adjective adverb

7. grateful

noun verb adjective adverb

8. publicity

noun verb adjective adverb

9. terrific

noun verb adjective adverb

10. argumentatively

noun verb adjective adverb

11. envious

noun verb adjective adverb

12. creative

noun verb adjective adverb

13. busier

noun verb adjective adverb

14. craftiest

noun verb adjective adverb

15. navigator

noun verb adjective adverb

16. recuperate

noun verb adjective adverb

17. fulfillment

noun verb adjective adverb

18. seriousness

noun verb adjective adverb

19. irritated

noun verb adjective adverb

20. inspiration

noun verb adjective adverb

Week #4 - Suffix Cumulative Test Answers

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Answers

1. noun
2. noun
3. noun
4. verb
5. adjective
6. adjective
7. adjective
8. noun
9. adjective
10. adverb
11. adjective
12. adjective
13. adjective
14. adjective
15. noun - one who
16. verb
17. noun
18. noun
19. verb
20. noun