

Word Forms

What are Word Forms?

The addition of prefixes and suffixes to words can change their category and function. Some suffixes are used only for nouns, and some are used for verbs. Suffixes can also impart different meanings to words. For example, 'trainer' and 'training' have the common stem 'train', but the suffixes '-er' and '-ing' impart different meanings.

Word Categories

Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
nation	nationalise	national	nationally
human	humanise	human	humanely/ humanly
beauty	beautify	beautiful	beautifully

Suffixes of Nouns

Suffix	Usage	Examples
-al	state	refusal, betrayal, perusal
-ance, -ence, -ancy, -ency	quality or state	militancy, performance
-tion	condition	condition, relation
-ice	condition	malice, novice, justice
-er/-or	doer	painter, trainer, actor
-graph	record	telegraph, phonograph, polygraph
-ism	belief	Hinduism, communism, fascism
-ist	doer	pacifist, pianist, altruist
-ian	someone who does	Gandhian, guardian, politician
-ing	name of an activity	reading, gardening, sleeping
-ity	state	continuity, annuity
-logy	study	geology, neurology
-ship	state of	friendship, kinship, sportsmanship
-sion, -tion	process of	expansion, determination, connection
-ory	place	dormitory, reformatory, laboratory
-orium, -arium	place	sanitarium, aquarium, crematorium
-ure	state	composure, exposure, leisure
-ment	state	abandonment, refinement, entertainment
-ness	state	happiness, completeness, fullness

Suffixes of Verbs

Suffix	Usage	Example
-ing	action in continuation	hearing, yearning, making
-ate	Latin origin verbs	recreate, abate, mediate
-ed	simple past or participle form	killed, toyed, booked
-en	verbs formed from adjectives	broken, frozen, sunken
-fy	do	magnify, specify, rectify
-s, -es	simple present tense form	criticises, runs, laughs
-er	actions which have repetitive quality	blabber, snicker, mutter
-nt	to do	prevent, augment, content
-ed	to do	attend, intend, pretend
-ise	to make/do	revolutionise, apologise, despise
-ish	become or do	flourish, banish, demolish
-able	to make	enable, disable

Suffixes of Adjectives

Suffix	Meaning	Usage
-able, -ible	having the quality of	flexible, available, eatable
-al	related to	ventral, global, musical
-ant	doing	dependent, buoyant, resilient
-ic	having the quality	terrific, generic, specific
-esque	like, having the quality	statuesque, picturesque
-er, -est	comparative and superlative qualities	fatter, tallest
-ose	full of	verbose, grandiose
-ful	full of	beautiful, boastful, grateful
-ing	participle form of adjective	interesting, frustrating, sleeping
-istic	having the quality	realistic, artistic, surrealistic
-ive	having the nature of	pensive, aggressive, massive
-ous, -ious	full of	gaseous, spacious, gracious

Suffixes of Adverbs

Suffix	Meaning	Usage
-ably	with a quality	comfortably, admirably, disagreeably
-ibly	with a quality	audibly, horribly, negligibly
-s	shows time or place	backwards, always, forwards
-wise	shows manner or position	clockwise, otherwise, lengthwise

Hints

- While changing a word into a noun, add 'by' before it for a hint.

Word		Noun Form
hostile (adjective)	by	hostility
kindly (adverb)		kindness
joking (verb)		joke

- While changing a word into a verb, add 'to' before it for a hint.

Word		Verb Form
confusion (noun)	to	confuse
regulating (participle)		regulate
beautifully (adverb)		beautify

- While changing a word into an adjective, add 'being' before it for a hint.

Word		Adjective Form
creation (noun)	being	creative
excellently (adverb)		excellent
freeze (verb)		frozen

- While changing a word into an adverb, add 'quite' before it for a hint or add the suffix '-ly' to it.

Word		Adverb Form
management (noun)	quite	manageably
justify (verb)		justifiably
political (adjective)		politically

Examples:

- Word: Tempt (Verb)

Part of Speech	Noun	Adjective	Adverb
	temptation	tempting	temptingly
Suffix	-ion	-ing (participle)	-ly

- Word: Fail (Verb)

Part of Speech	Noun	Adjective	Adverb
	failure	failing	failingly
Suffix	-ure	-ing (participle)	-ly

3. Word: Sad (Adjective)

Part of Speech	Noun	Verb	Adverb
	sadness	sadden	sadly
Suffix	-ness	-en	-ly

4. Word: Confusingly (Adverb)

Part of Speech	Noun	Verb	Adjective
	confusion	confuse	confusing
Suffix	-sion	-se	-ing (participle)

5. Word: Complete (Verb)

Part of Speech	Noun	Adjective	Adverb
	completion	complete	completely
Suffix	-ion	-	-ly

6. Word: Kindness (Noun)

Part of Speech	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
	-	kind	kindly
Suffix	-	-	-ly

7. Word: Intentional (Adjective)

Part of Speech	Noun	Verb	Adverb
	intention	intend	intentionally
Suffix	-ion	-	-ly

8. Word: Preventively (Adverb)

Part of Speech	Noun	Verb	Adjective
	prevention	prevent	preventive
Suffix	-ion	-	-ive

9. Word: Suggestion (Noun)

Part of Speech	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
	suggest	suggestive	suggestively
Suffix	-	-ive	-ly

10. Word: Admire (Verb)

Part of Speech	Noun	Adjective	Adverb
Suffix	admiration	admirable	admirably
	-ion	-able	-ly

11. Word: Variable (Adjective)

Part of Speech	Noun	Verb	Adverb
Suffix	variability	vary	variably
	-ity	-	-ly

12. Word: Urgently (Adverb)

Part of Speech	Noun	Verb	Adjective
Suffix	urgency	urge	urgent
	-ency	-	-ent

13. Word: Energy (Noun)

Part of Speech	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
Suffix	energise	energetic	energetically
	-ise	-ic	-ly

14. Word: Entertain (Verb)

Part of Speech	Noun	Adjective	Adverb
Suffix	entertainment	entertaining	entertainingly
	-ment	-ing	-ly

15. Word: Total (Adjective)

Part of Speech	Noun	Verb	Adverb
Suffix	totality	total	totally
	-ity	-	-ly

16. Word: Gradually (Adverb)

Part of Speech	Noun	Verb	Adjective
Suffix	grade	grade	gradual
	-	-	-al