

RYMW: Use the terminology of traditional grammar and locate information in a grammar textbook.

Parts of Speech – Suffixes

A word can be identified as a noun, a verb, an adjective or an adverb by its suffix (ending). Examples are given in the tables below.

Nouns

Suffix	Word
ion, sion, tion	profession; tension; population
acy	accuracy
ance; ence	sustenance; permanence
hood	childhood
ar; or	scholar, tutor
ism	socialism
ist	soloist
ment	government
ness	kindness
y	beauty
ty	reality

Adjectives

Suffix	Word
al	natural
ful	beautiful
ly	friendly
ic	chronic
ish	selfish
like	childlike
ous	generous
y	salty
ate	accurate
able, ible	capable; edible

Adverbs

Suffix	Word
ly	happily; beautifully



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Verbs

Suffix	Word
ify	beautify; terrify; signify
ate	populate
ise; ize	realise
en	widen

Word Building

Adding suffixes to words can change or add to their meaning, but most importantly they show how a word will be used in a sentence and what part of speech (e.g. noun, verb, adjective) the word belongs to. Creating words banks is one way of helping learners build their vocabulary base. Look at the example below.

Using tables:

Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
beauty	beautify	beautiful	beautifully

When students learn a new word they can write it in the table and then add the different suffixes to create the different parts of speech. It is a useful learning resource. Try it with your students!

For example:

develop (verb)

develop-er (noun)

develop-ing (verb or adjective)

develop-ed (verb or adjective)

develop-ment (noun)

develop-ment-al (adjective)



Research more about suffixes. The BBC website provides fact sheets and quizzes on 'suffixes'. The link to the website is:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/spelling/wordbuilding/suffixes/factsheet.shtml>