

Understanding Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Example	Definition
-able, -ible	able, suitable	visible	able to be seen
-acy	quality, state	democracy	state of the people
-age	state, place	breakage	state of breaking
-al	pertain to	rental	pertaining to rent
-ance, -ence	quality, state	attendance	quality of attending
-ant	quality/person	servant	person who serves
-arium, -orium	place for	auditorium	place for sound
-ary	pertain to	pulmonary	pertaining to lungs
-ate	cause to be	activate	cause to be active
-ation, -ition	action/state	discoloration	state of the color
-dom	state of being	freedom	state of being free
-er	perform	action talker	one who performs talk
-esque	in like manner	picturesque	like a picture
-ess	female	lioness	female lion
-ferous	bearing, full	conifer	bearing cones
-ful	abounding in	colorful	abounding in color
-hood	state, quality	brotherhood	brotherly state
-ic	pertain to	acidic	pertain to acid
-ify, -fy	make, cause	magnify	make larger
-ile	similar to	juvenile	youth like
-ish	like, inclined	childish	child like
-ism	doctrine of	conservatism	conservative doctrine
-itis	inflammation	appendicitis	inflamed appendix
-ive	have nature of	destructive	has a distorting nature
-ize	make, practice	memorize	practice remembering
-ism	doctrine of	conservatism	conservative doctrine
-less	without	pitiless	without pity
-let	diminutive	piglet	small, young pig
-ling	diminutive	duckling	small, young duck
-ment	quality, state	attainment	quality of attaining
-mony	condition of	testimony	condition of testament
-ness	state of being	happiness	state of being happy
-or	person, thing	generator	thing that generates
-ous, -ose	full of	porous	full of pores
-ory	tend to be	illusory	tend toward illusion
-osis	condition, state of	hypnosis	state of trance
		psychosis	condition of the mind
-ster	one who	gangster	one of a gang
-tude	quality/degree	altitude	degree of height