

Morpheme Cards

Teaching Resource



Introduction



Over time, learners are able to identify small, meaningful parts of words that give us information on things like verb tense, singularity vs plural, meaning and parts of speech. These small units are known as **morphemes**, and they include linguistic units like the plural suffixes “-s” or “-es”, the tense suffixes “-ed” and “-ing”, prefixes like “re-” or “pre-”, or Latin roots such as “spec” meaning “see”. These linguistic units allow English speakers to express subtle elements of meaning within the word. Whilst English may have complex orthography (spelling), one can argue that many other languages have more complex *morphologies*, or uses of prefixes, suffixes, etc.

When learning about morpheme, learners also learn the rules that govern how to add morphemes to base words, such as the answers to such questions as “when do I drop the final “e” when adding “-ing”? or “when does the y turn to i?” or “when do I double the final consonant before adding a suffix?” This resource provides information about those little units that allow learners to express subtle meanings. through morphemes. Please enjoy and explore!

“Not caring, not feeling”



“A love for humankind; generosity”



Adding Inflectional Endings

Adding -s or -es

dog
does not end in "s"

dogs
add "-s"

glass → **glasses**
ends with "s" or "ch" add "-es"

Adding -ing

hop → **hopping**
CVC

hope → **hoping**
CVCC

Adding -ed

bat → **batted**
CVC

look → **looked**
CVVC

Appendix F

ADDING A SUFFIX TO ANY WORD

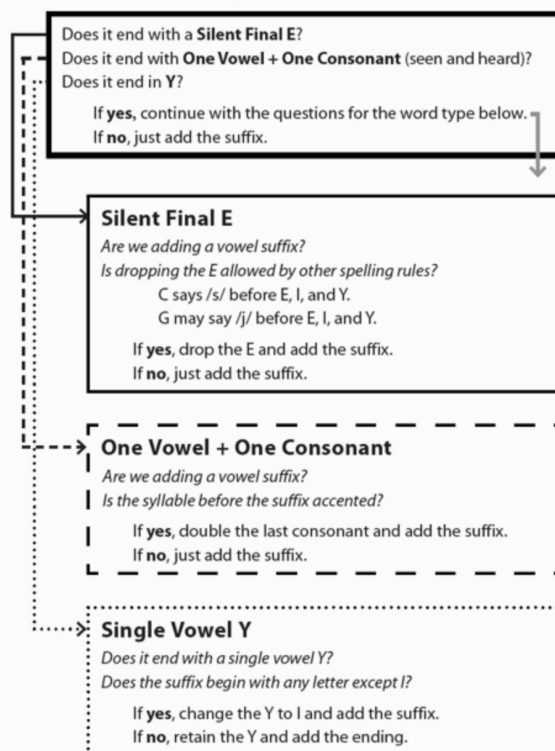


Table 2 Changes to Base Words When Adding Inflectional Endings or Other Suffixes That Start with a Vowel

BASE WORDS	+ ING	+ ED (OR ER)	+ S
1. CWC, CVCC Ex: <i>look, walk</i>	No change Ex: <i>looking, walking</i>	No change Ex: <i>looked, walker</i>	No change Ex: <i>looks, walks</i>
2. CVC* Ex: <i>bat</i>	Double final letter Ex: <i>batting</i>	Double final letter Ex: <i>batted, batter</i>	No change Ex: <i>bats</i>
3. CVCe Ex: <i>skate</i>	Drop final e Ex: <i>skating</i>	Drop final e Ex: <i>skated, skater</i>	No change Ex: <i>skates</i>
4. Words that end in a consonant + y Ex: <i>cry</i>	No change Ex: <i>crying</i>	Change y to i Ex: <i>cried, crier</i>	Change y to i and add es Ex: <i>cries</i>
5. Words that end in a vowel + y Ex: <i>play</i>	No change Ex: <i>playing</i>	No change Ex: <i>played, player</i>	No change Ex: <i>plays</i>
6. Two-syllable words accented on second syllable Ex: <i>admit, invite, apply, destroy</i>	Follow rules for 1–5 Ex: <i>admitting, inviting, applying, destroying</i>	Follow rules for 1–5 Ex: <i>admitted, invited, applied, destroyed, destroyer</i>	Follow rules for 1–5 Ex: <i>admits, invites, applies, destroys</i>
7. Words that end in a c Ex: <i>mimic</i>	Add a k Ex: <i>mimicking</i>	Add a k Ex: <i>mimicked</i>	No change Ex: <i>mimics</i>

*Words ending in x and w do not double (e.g., *boxed, chewed*). Words that end in ck avoid having to double a final k (*blocked, blockina*). Words that end in ve avoid having to double a final v (*loved, lovina*).



Prefixes



un-

/short u/ + /n/

not ... the opposite of

untie, undo, unconscious,
unveil

re-

/r/ + /long e/

repeat ... do again

return, revisit, rerun, recap,
repeat, reuse

pre-

**/p/ + /r/ + /long e/ or
/p/ + /r/ + /short e/**

before ... to go before

preview, precede, preface,
pretreat, prepare, preschool

dis-

/d/ + /short i/ + /s/

not, do not, not recognise

disagree, disappear,
disappoint, disengage,
discard

ex-

/short e/ + /ks/

keep out, outside, former

exit, exclude, external,
exoskeleton, ex-president

in-

/short i/ + /n/

not

incorrect, inconsiderate,
independent, incredible

uni-

**/long u/ + /n/ + /long e/ or
/long u/ + /n/ + /short i/**

one, single, once

unicycle, unite, unilateral,
universe, unibrow

bi-

/b/ + /long i/

two, twice

bicycle, bilateral, biannual,
binaural, bipolar

tri-

**/t/ + /r/ + /long i/ or
/t/ + /r/ + /short i/ or**

three, thrice

tricycle, triplicate, trifecta,
triennial, tripod

sub-

/s/ + /short u/ + /b/

under, less, below

subtract, submarine, subzero,
subpar, submit, substitute

post-

/p/ + /long o/ + /s/ + /t/

after

postpone, postgame, posterior,
posthumous, postnatal,

mis-

/m/ + /short i/ + /s/

not, failed to, wrong

misunderstand, misanthropic,
misnomer, misbehave

non-

/n/ + /short o/ + /n/

not, lacking

nonevent, noncommittal,
nonsense, nonexistent

mal-

/m/ + /schwa/ + /l/

bad, evil, poorly

malevolent, maladapted,
maligned, malnourished

anti-

**[/short a/ + /n/] +
[/t/ + /long e/]**

against, opposed to, opposite

antipathy, antithesis,
anticlimax, antidote, antibiotic

inter-

[/short i/ + /n/] + [/t/ + /er/]

between, across

international, interpersonal,
intersect, interpolate, internet

intra-

[/short i/ + /n/] + [/t/ + /r/ + /schwa/]

within

intrapersonal, intranet,
intracultural

super-

[/s/ + /long oo/] + [/p/ + /er/]

above, beyond

superfluous, superscript,
superb, superior

fore-

/f/ + /or/

before, come before

foreshadow, foreword,
foreman, forebear, forecast,
forebode

pro-

/p/ + /r/ + /long o/

before or supportive

prologue, proceed, propose,
probable, proclaim,
pronounce

quad-

/kw/ + /aw/ + /d/

four

quadrangle, quadbike,
quadrupled, quadrant

pent-

/p/ + /short e/ + /n/ + /t/

five

pentagon, pentameter,
pentecost, pentadactyl

multi-

**[/m/ + /short u/ + /l/]
+ [/t/ + /long e/]**

many

multigrain, multicultural,
multiply, multicoloured

a-

/short a/ or /long a/

without, not

apathy, amoral, abiotic,
asymmetrical, atheist

dys-

/d/ + /short i/ + /s/

abnormal, bad

dysfunction, dyslexia,
dysplasia, dystopia,
dysgraphia

com-

/k/ + /short o/ + /m/

together, bring together

complete, compare, comfort,
compile, commingle

ambi-

**[/short a/ + /m/]
+ [/b/ + /long e/ or schwa]**

both

ambiguous, ambidextrous,
ambivalent, (amphibian)

co-

/k/ + /long o/

together, partnership

coproduction, cofounder,
copilot, coexist, coincidence

dia-

[/d/ + /long i/] + [short a]

through ... across

diameter, diagonal, diagnosis,
diachronic, diaspora

con-

**/k/ + /schwa/ + /n/ or
/k/ + /short o/ + /n/**

with, joined, together

connect, continue, conjoin,
congregate, concurrently

poly-

**[/p/ + /short o/]
+ [/l/ + /long e/]**

many

polygon, polyester,
polytechnic, polypeptide,
polyglot

mono-

**[/m/ + /short o/] + [/n/ + /long
o/ or /short o/]**

single, one

monolingual, monotonous,
monologue, monopoly

Suffixes



-s

/s/

either indicates the plural form of a noun or the singular form of a verb

dogs, ducks, walks, jumps, debates

-es

/schwa/ + /s/

either indicates the plural form of a noun or the singular form of a verb

dishes, washes, crosses, discusses

-ed

/d/ or /t/ or /schwa/ + /d/

either indicates the past tense of a verb or the past participle

walked, jumped, traded
(had) discussed

-ing

/short i/ + /ng/

either indicates the present participle or the gerund form

walking, trading, seeing, hopping, running

-ly

/l/ + /long i/

often indicates the adverb form of words (or the "how")

quickly, silently, happily, nervously

-y

/l/ + /long i/

often indicates that something has the quality of ("funny" the quality of fun)

funny, slimy, happy, angry, wispy

-ness

/n/ + /short e/ + /s/

the quality of ... noun form of an adjective

happiness, wickedness, suspiciousness, peacefulness

-some

/s/ + /schwa/ + /m/
/s/ + /short u/ + /m/

the quality of ... noun form of an adjective

handsome, fearsome, tiresome, lonesome

-ship

/sh/ + /short i/ + /p/

the quality of ... noun form of an adjective or concept

friendship, mateship, hardship, censorship, workmanship

-ment

/m/ + /short e/ + /n/ + /t/

noun form of a verb concept

*establishment, embodiment,
embarrassment, disagreement*

-tion

/sh/ + /schwa/ + /n/

*the nominalisation of a verb
... or when we turn a verb
into a noun (common in
academic writing)*

*creation, dictation,
detection, summation*

-ty

/t/ + /long e/

*the quality of being ... the
presence of being ...*

*identity, cruelty, mortality,
hostility*

-ish

/short i/ + /sh/

*being like or having the
quality of ... or ... common in
many verbs*

*sheepish, selfish, publish,
vanish, establish*

-able

/schwa/ + /b/ + /l/

*having the quality of ...
(noun)*

*capable, affable, enjoyable,
liable, enviable*

-logy

/l/ + /short o/ + /j/ + /long e/
or /l/ + /schwa/ + /j/ + /long e/

the study of ... (noun)

*psychology, biology, geology,
phonology*

-ous

/schwa/ + /s/ or
/short u/ + /s/

*having the quality of ...
(adjective)*

*aqueous, vacuous, conscious,
malicious*

-ic

/short i/ + /k/

having the quality of ...

*acidic, basic, terrific,
specific, acerbic*

-ive

/short i/ + /v/

having the quality of ...

*decisive, inquisitive, collective,
expressive, cooperative,
perceptive*

-ance

/schwa/ + /n/ + /s/

characterised by (noun)

reliance, defiance, variance,
endurance, alliance

-dom

/d/ + /schwa/ + /m/

characterised by (noun)

freedom, boredom,
martyrdom, kingdom, wisdom

-ence

/short e/ + /n/ + /s/

characterised by (noun)

independence, permanence,
maintenance, preference

-fy

/f/ + /long i/

the act of ... to turn into (verb)

crucify, liquify, exemplify, deify,
solidify

-hood

/h/ + /long oo/ + /d/

characterised by (noun)

falsehood, neighbourhood,
parenthood, motherhood

-uous

*/long u/ + /schwa/ + /s/ or
/long u/ + /short u/ + /s/*

*having the quality of ...
(adjective)*

vacuous, virtuous,
conspicuous, promiscuous

-ist

/short i/ + /s/ + /t/

person with a particular trait

pianist, sexist, dramatist,
sociologist, scientist

-ism

/short i/ + /z/ + /m/

characterised by (noun)

fascism, pacificism, optimism,
pessimism

-ful

/f/ + /schwa/ + /l/

being full of ...

cheerful, deceitful, colourful,
beautiful

-less

/l/ + /short e/ + /s/

without ... (adjective)

careless, fearless, nameless,
spotless, homeless, useless

-sion

/zh/ + /schwa/ + /n/

*the nominalisation of a verb
... or when we turn a verb
into a noun (common in
academic writing)*

collision, permission,
cohesion, omission,
supervision, conclusion

ADDING A SUFFIX TO ANY WORD

Does it end with a **Silent Final E**?
Does it end with **One Vowel + One Consonant** (seen and heard)?
Does it end in **Y**?

If **yes**, continue with the questions for the word type below.
If **no**, just add the suffix.

Silent Final E

Are we adding a vowel suffix?

Is dropping the E allowed by other spelling rules?

C says /s/ before E, I, and Y.

G may say /j/ before E, I, and Y.

If **yes**, drop the E and add the suffix.

If **no**, just add the suffix.

One Vowel + One Consonant

Are we adding a vowel suffix?

Is the syllable before the suffix accented?

If **yes**, double the last consonant and add the suffix.

If **no**, just add the suffix.

Single Vowel Y

Does it end with a single vowel Y?

Does the suffix begin with any letter except I?

If **yes**, change the Y to I and add the suffix.

If **no**, retain the Y and add the ending.

Roots



acri-

[/short a/ + /k/]
+ [/r/ + /short i/]

bitter, stinging

acrimonious, acrid,
acridity, acrimony

agr-

[/short a/ + /g/] + [/r/]

relating to farming

agronomy, agriculture,
agrarian, agribusiness

anthro-

[/short a/ + /n/]
+ [/th/ + /r/ + /long o/]

mankind, humankind

anthropology, misanthrope,
philanthropy,
anthropomorphism

aqu-

/aw/ + /kw/
or /short a/ + /kw

water

aquatic, aquarium, aqueous,
aquamarine

arch-

/ar/ + /ch/

head, chief, kind

archenemy, monarchy,
oligarchy, archdiocese

auto-

[/aw/] + [/t/ + /long o/ or /
short o/]

on its own

autonomous, automobile,
automatic, automaton

ben-

/b/ + /short e/ + /n/

good

beneficial, benefit, benediction,
benefactor, benevolent

bibli-

[/b/ + /short i/ + /b/] + [/l/
+ /long e/ or /short i/]

book

bibliophile, bibliography, bible,
benefactor, bibliographer

bio-

[/b/ + /long i/] + [/short o/]

life

biology, biography, biotic,
abiotic, antibiotic, biosphere

carn-

/k/ + /ar/ + /n/

meat, flesh

carnal, carnivore, carnivorous,
incarnation

cent-

/s/ + /short e/ + /n/ + /t/

one hundred

centimetre, century, centipede,
bicentennial

cert-

/s/ + /er/ + /t/

confidently know

certainty, certitude, certificate,
ascertain, certifiable

chrom-

/k/ + /r/ + /long o/ + /m/

colour

chromatic, chromatology,
chromotherapy

chron-

/k/ + /r/ + /short o/ + /n/

time

chronicle, achronistic,
chronology, chronometer

circ-

/c/ + /er/ + /k/

round, around

circle, circumference, circuitous,
circumlocution

cog-

/c/ + /short o/ + /g/

mind, aware, think

cognition, cogent, cognitive,
neuro cognitive, cogitate

contra-

[/k/ + /short o/ + /n/]
+ [/t/ + /r/ + /schwa/]

against

contradict, contravene, contrast,
contra-political

corp-

[/k/ + /or/] + [/p/]

body

corpus, corporal, corpulent,
incorporate, corporate

cosm-

/k/ + /short o/ + /s/ + /m/

space, stars

cosmic, cosmology,
cosmopolitan, cosmonaut

cred-

/k/ + /r/ + /short e/ + /d/

belief

credible, incredible,
credit, credulous

crypt-

/k/ + /r/ + /short i/ +
/p/ + /t/

hidden

cryptic, crypt, cryptogram,
apocryphal

ego-

[/long e/] + [/g/ + /long o/]

self

egocentric, egoist,
ego, egomaniac

equi-

[/long e/] + [/kw/ + short i/]

equal

equal, equivalent,
equilateral, equinox

fid-

/f/ + /short i/ + /d/

faith, trust

fidelity, infidelity,
fiduciary, confidant, confidence

geo-

[/g/ + /long e/] + [/long o/]

earth

geologist, geology,
geometry, geocentric

graph-

/g/ + /r/ + /short a/ + /f/

writing, representing

dysgraphia, orthography,
geography, graphics

hetero-

[/h/ + /short e/] +
[/t/ + /er/] + [/long o/]

mixed, diverse

heterogenous, heterosexuality,
heterodyne

homo-

[/h/ + /long o/] + [/m/ + /
long o/]

*same, singular (Greek) ... or
human (Latin)*

homogeneity, homonym,
homosexual, homo sapien

hydr-

[/h/ + /long i/] + [/d/ + /r/]

water

hydraulic, hydrogen,
hydrophobia, hydrant

hyper-

[/h/ + /long i/] + [/p/ + /er/]

above, beyond, over

hyperactive, hypersensitive,
hyperbolic, hypertension

hypo-

[/h/ + /long i/] +
[/p/ + /long o/]

below, lower, under

hypodermic, hypothermia,
hyposensitive, hypochondriac

kilo-

[/k/ + /long e/] +
[/l/ + /long o/]

one thousand

kilogram, kilometre,
kiloton

lingu-

[/l/ + /short i/ + /ng/] + [/g/
+ /w/]

language

linguistic, lingual,
multilingual, linguist

locu-

[/l/ + /long o/ + /k/] +
[/long o/]

talk

locution, interlocuter,
circumlocution

macro-

[/m/ + /short a/ + /k/] +
[/r/ + /long o/]

large

macrocosm, macroscopic,
macrocytosis, macrobiotic

man-

/m/ + /short a/ + /n/

hand

manual, manuscript,
manufacture, manipulate

medi-

[/m/ + /long e/] +
[/d/ + /long e/]

half

medium, median,
mediocre

micro-

[/m/ + /long i/] +
[/k/ + /r/ + /long o/]

small

microscopic, microscope,
microcosm, microbiotic

morph-

/m/ + /or/ + /f/

change, transform

morph, morphology,
anthropomorphic,
metamorphosis

omni-

[/short o/ + /m/] +
[/n/ + /short i/*]

all

omnipotent, omniscient,
omnipresent,

pan-

/p/ + /short a/ + /n/

over all, all, across all

panacea, pan-pacific,
pantheism, panorama

path-

/p/ + /short a/ + /th/

feeling

sympathy, apathy,
empathy, antipathy

phil-

/f/ + /short i/ + /l/

love

philanthropy, philanderer,
philosopher, bibliophile*

phon-

/f/ + /long o/ + /n/

sound

telephone, phonology,
phonogram, symphony*

phot-

/f/ + /long o/ + /t/

light

photon, photography,
photosynthesis, photoelectric

phys-

/f/ + /short i/ + /s/

nature, natural bodies

physical, physics,
physician, biophysics

pseud-

/s/ + /oo/ + /d/

fake, not exact, not real

pseudo psychology, pseudonym,
pseudoscience, pseudograph

psych-

/s/ + /long i/ + /k/

mind

psychology, psychosis,
psychiatry, psychic

soph-

/s/ + /long o/ + /f/ or
/s/ + /short o/ + /f/

wisdom

sophist, philosophy,
sophisticated, sophistication

stell-

/s/ + /t/ + /short e/ + /l/

star

stellar, constellation,
interstellar

struct-

/s/ + /t/ + /short u/ +
/k/ + /t/

form, formed, order

structure, construction,
instruction

tel-

/t/ + /short e/ + /l/

far, far off

telephone, television,
teletransporter

term-

/t/ + /er/ + /m/

time, length of time

term, terminal, termination
interminable, indeterminate

therm-

/th/ + /er/ + /m/

heat

thermal, thermometer,
hypothermia, geothermal

vac-

/v/ + /short a/ + /k/

empty, extract

vacuum, vacuous, vacant*,
evacuate, evacuee

viv-

/v/ + /long i/ + /v/
/v/ + /short i/ + /v/

life, lively

vivid, vivacious, vitality,
vitamin

Record Keeping



