

Suffixes

A suffix is a syllable or group of syllables added to the end of a word. A suffix changes the meaning of a word and/or forms a new word. For example, "-ous" is a suffix that means having something, being full of something, or to be characterized by something. Add "-ous" to the end of the word "danger" and you create the word "dangerous" (meaning full of danger).

Educators agree that one of the keys to a sound vocabulary is a complete understanding of suffixes. It may be useful to create flash cards that include various suffixes. For example:

Front: -ful

Back: joyful - full of joy

Vocabulary words can be taken from the student's textbooks, as well as other reading materials.

It may also be beneficial to help the student learn to dissect a word. For example, help the student break apart the word "kindness." Remind him or her that "-ness" means "state of." Therefore, the meaning of "kindness" is "state of being kind."