

Wednesday 9th February, 2022

Phonics

Suffixes

There are two types of suffixes. They are vowel and consonant suffixes. Vowel suffixes include endings such as -er, -ed, -es, -end and -ing. Consonant suffixes include endings such as -s, -less, -ness, -ment, -ful, and -ly. When adding suffixes to words it can be tricky to learn and master. There are some rules to follow to know when to add suffixes correctly.

### Suffix rules

- 1) **Double the consonant-** when a word ends in a short vowel sound followed by a consonant, the last letter is doubled before the suffix is added.

#### **Example**

Fat + t + er = fatter

shop + p + ed = shopped

The doubling rule does not apply to words that end in w, x, or y.

- 2) **Drop the Silent E-** When a word ends in a silent letter "e" and you are adding a suffix that begins with a vowel, then drop the final "

**Example:** drive + -ing = driving

make + -er = maker

- 3) **Keep the Y-** When a word ends with "y" and has a vowel before the "y," then keep the "y" when adding a suffix.

**Example=** enjoy + -ed = enjoyed      play + -ing = playing

Another time to keep the "y" is if the suffix starts with the letter "i." Remember that a word cannot have two i's in a row.

**Example=** worry + -ing = worrying      copy + -ing = copying

- 4) **Change the Y to an I-** When the word has a consonant before the "y" at the end, you will need to change the "y" to "i" before adding the suffix.

**Example=** beauty + -ful = beautiful

happy + -ness = happiness

Not surprisingly, there are some exceptions to this rule.

**Example=** dry + -er = dryer

baby + -hood = babyhood

lady + -ship =

ladyship