

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

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 "e".

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 **single** 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