GRAMMAR

Suffixes

Name _____ Date _____

I can use suffixes like -ful, -less, -able and -ness to work out what a word means.

1 The rule

A suffix is added to the end of a word and changes its meaning: -ful means full of, -less means without, -able means can be, and -ness means being.

The **fearless** lion was **hopeful** and **careful**.

2 Look and say



colorful
full of color



fearless
without fear



washable
can be washed



kindness
being kind

hopeful
full of hope



breakable
can break



quickly
in a quick way



movement
the act of moving

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Sort the words

Name _____ Date _____

Read each word. Which suffix does it have? Write it in the right box.

1 Word bank

readable | sadness | careless | enjoyable | careful | fearless | darkness | helpful | kindness | softness | washable | joyful | breakable | endless | harmless | hopeful

-ful	-less	-able	-ness

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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GRAMMAR · SUFFIXES

Find it in a sentence

Name _____ Date _____

Read each sentence. Circle the word with a suffix.

1. The puppy is very playful.
2. That spider is harmless.
3. Thank you for your kindness.
4. This jacket is washable.
5. Please be careful on the ice.
6. The darkness made us sleepy.
7. The trip felt endless.
8. Her plan is doable.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Write it

Name _____ Date _____

Add -ful, -less, -able or -ness to make a word that matches the meaning.

1. full of joy = _____

2. without fear = _____

3. can be washed = _____

4. being happy = _____

5. full of help = _____

6. without end = _____

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: suffixes

1 Sort the words

-ful: helpful, joyful, careful, hopeful

-less: careless, fearless, harmless, endless

-able: washable, readable, breakable, enjoyable

-ness: kindness, sadness, darkness, softness

2 Find it in a sentence

1. playful 2. harmless 3. kindness 4. washable 5. careful 6. darkness 7. endless 8. doable

3 Write it

1. joyful 2. fearless 3. washable 4. happiness 5. helpful 6. endless

4 Teaching tip

Split words on a whiteboard: help + ful, fear + less. Children see the base word they already know and use the suffix to work out the rest.

Watch for: Forgetting a spelling change, as in "happyness." When a base word ends in a consonant and y, change the y to i before adding the suffix: happiness, plentiful.

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