

THE ULTIMATE SUFFIX GUIDE

NOUN FORMING SUFFIXES

ABSTRACT FUNCTION

-acy, -acity, -y
-al
-ance, -ence, -ancy, -ency
-et(y), -it(y), -ty
-ice
-ion
-itude
-ment
-mony
-or
-sis
-ure
-y, -ia

EXAMPLES

*fallacy, perspicacity, custody
removal
allegiance, cadence, hesitancy, currency
variety, sanity, novelty
malice, police, justice
union, impression, nation
gratitude, magnitude
temperament, detriment, regiment
patrimony, ceremony
labor, escalator, color
thesis, crisis
censure, closure, legislature
strategy, mania*

AGENT FUNCTION ("ONE WHO")

-ac
-ain, -an
-ant, -ent
-ar
-arian, -ian
-ate
-ist
-or
-ot, -t

EXAMPLES

*maniac
captain, veteran
litigant, respondent
scholar
librarian, politician
episcopate, curate
sophist, communist
doctor, actor, legislator
idiot, tyrant*

DIMINUTIVE FUNCTION ("A LITTLE X")

-cle, -cule, -icle
-el, -le
-il
-ule, -ola, -ole

EXAMPLES

*muscle, molecule, particle
novel, scruple
pencil, pupil
module, gladiola, granola, aureole*

LOCATIVE FUNCTION ("PLACE FOR")

-arium, -orium
-ary, -ory

EXAMPLES

*planetarium, auditorium
aviary, dormitory*

OTHER SUFFIXES

-and, -end
-ics
-ism

MEANING

gerund
study of
process or result of
system of theory or practice

EXAMPLES

*memoranda, legend
physics, economics
agonism, nepotism,
socialism, atheism*

MEDICAL SUFFIXES

-ia, -y
-in, -ine
-itis
-oma
-osis

MEANING

condition of
chemical substance
inflammation of
tumor, swelling
diseased condition, act of

EXAMPLES

*diphtheria, myalgia
antitoxin, chlorine, epinephrine
arthritis, appendicitis
hematoma, melanoma
psychosis, tuberculosis*

LATIN ENDINGS

-a	<i>data, antenna</i>
-ae	<i>alumnae</i>
-i	<i>octopi, radii</i>
-um	<i>medium, criterium</i>
-us	<i>consensus</i>

GREEK ENDINGS

-a	<i>apocrypha, chimera</i>
-on	<i>triathlon, pantheon</i>
-os	<i>cosmos, pathos</i>

ADJECTIVE FORMING SUFFIXES

-ac, -acious
-ain, -an, -ane, -ine
-ant, -ent
-ar, -al, -ary
-arian, -ian
-ate, -ite
-ic, -tic, -itic, -etic
-id
-ific
-il, ile
-ive
-ory

EXAMPLES

<i>cardiac</i>
<i>certain, urban, urbane, alpine</i>
<i>valiant, nascent</i>
<i>stellar, social, temporary</i>
<i>humanitarian, Russian</i>
<i>corporate, favorite</i>
<i>graphic, civic, pathetic</i>
<i>candid, florid</i>
<i>terrific</i>
<i>civil, servile, docile</i>
<i>cursive, attractive</i>
<i>transitory, inflammatory</i>

SUFFIX

-able, -ble, -ible
-ilent, -olent, -ulent
-ious, -ose, -ous, -ulous, -acious
-oid

MEANING

capable of being
full of
full of
having the form of

EXAMPLES

<i>insufferable, voluble, visible</i>
<i>pestilent, violent, turbulent</i>
<i>cautious, verbose, copious, credulous, tenacious</i>
<i>android, hominoid</i>

VERB FORMING SUFFIXESSUFFIX

-at(e)
-efy, -ify
-esc(e)
-ize

MEANING

general verb
to make
to begin to
to make

EXAMPLES

<i>incorporate, implicate</i>
<i>liquefy, pacify</i>
<i>coalesce, incandescent</i>
<i>prioritize, agonize</i>