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A suffix is a letter or group of letters placed at the end of a base word to change the meaning of that word.

* Note that individual definitions will vary.

COLOR	FUL	
root word	suffix	

suffix	meaning	suffix	meaning
ist	one skilled in	ish	of the nature of
able	able to be	ous	full of
tion	art of	er	one who does
ful	full of	hood	state of being
al	pertaining to	ward	in the direction of
like	similar to	ness	quality of
ible	able to be	ment	act or process of

Example: The geologist was overcome with happiness when he discovered a rare stone.

geologist: one skilled in geology happiness: quality of being happy

Read the sentences below. Find the words that contain suffixes. Circle each suffix and write its definition on the line below each sentence. Use the above chart and a dictionary as reference.

1. It would be selfish to keep this bountiful garden hidden.

selfish: concerned with the nature of oneself bountiful: full of bounty

2. The adorable kitten was unable to resist the red laser beam.

adorable: very cute unable: not able

3. ("Onward!") shouted Luke during a difficult hike.

onward: continuing in a forward direction

4. After some national debate, California gained its statehood in 1850.

national: pertaining to the nation statehood: the status of being a state of the U.S.

5. Mia is the lead singer and guitarist for her band, The Dreadful Dames.

singer: one who sings guitarist: one skilled in guitar dreadful: full of dread

6. In a burst of excitement, Pete yelled, "This movie is awesome!"

excitement: the act of being excited awesome: extremely impressive