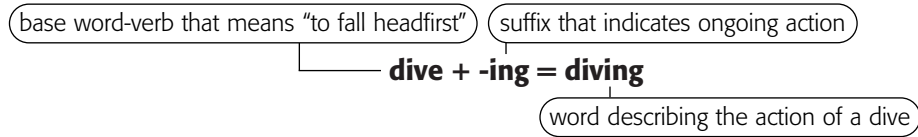


Lesson 9

Base Words and Suffixes

Teaching

Some suffixes change the meaning of base words. Other suffixes add grammatical information such as the tense of a verb or the number of a noun. These suffixes are also called **inflected endings**. The spelling of a base word may change when you add an inflected ending. For example, you must drop the final *e* in *dive* before adding the suffix *-ing*.



Study the common inflected endings listed in the chart below.

Suffix	Effect on Base Word	Examples
-s/-es	changes the number of a noun (from one to more than one)	ladder + -s = ladders, circus + -es = circuses
-d/-ed	changes verb tense (from present to past)	skate + -d = skated, walk + -ed = walked
-ing	changes verb tense (ongoing action)	sail + -ing = sailing, write + -ing = writing
-er	changes the degree of comparison in modifiers (more but not most)	sick + -er = sicker, easy + -er = easier
-est	changes the degree of comparison in modifiers (the most)	sick + -est = sickest, easy + -est = easiest

A. Identifying Base Words and Suffixes

For each example in Column A, draw a line between the base word and suffix. Then choose the correct definition of the word.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| EXAMPLE saf/est | (a) the most safe | b) past tense of safe |
| 1. geniuses | a) more than one genius | b) past tense of genius |
| 2. escaping | a) in the process of an escape | b) more than one escape |
| 3. called | a) past tense of call | b) in the process of a call |
| 4. lighter | a) more light than something else | b) the most light |
| 5. saddest | a) in the process of being sad | b) the most sad |
| 6. answered | a) more than one answer | b) past tense of answer |
| 7. washing | a) in the process of a wash | b) past tense of wash |
| 8. clocks | a) past tense of clock | b) more than one clock |
| 9. quicker | a) the most quick | b) more quick than something else |
| 10. sunniest | a) past tense of sunny | b) the most sunny |

Base Words and Suffixes*More Practice***B. Base Words and Suffixes in Action**

For each item, underline the word that correctly completes the sentence.

1. I am not the (great, greatest) tennis player in the world.
2. English class is even (hardest, harder) than social studies.
3. (Swimming, Swim) is the sport I enjoy the most.
4. Dana (completes, completed) her science project last night.
5. Taking care of four (rabbit, rabbits) is a big responsibility.
6. What are you (thinks, thinking) about right now?
7. My room is (cleaner, cleaning) today than it was yesterday.
8. Ellie (practice, practiced) the violin for an hour yesterday.
9. Luke is the (taller, tallest) of all 15 boys in our class.
10. Two (students, student) were late to school this morning.

C. Vocabulary Challenge

Add two suffixes to each base word to create two new words. Use these suffixes: -s/-es, -ed, -ing, -er, or -est. Then write a sentence using one of the new words.

EXAMPLE base word float new word floated new word floating

sentence: *Floating around in the neighborhood pool is my favorite activity.*

1. base word join new word _____ new word _____

sentence: _____

2. base word light new word _____ new word _____

sentence: _____

3. base word rich new word _____ new word _____

sentence: _____
