

Rules for Adding Suffixes

There are two kinds of suffixes. Consonant suffixes begin with a consonant (-s, -ful, -less, -ness, -ly...). Vowel suffixes begin with a vowel (-ing, -ed, -er, -est, -y...).

- When adding a consonant suffix, **just add**.

hand + s = hands

help + ful = helpful

sleep + less = sleepless

- When adding a vowel suffix, you must check the base word.

- When adding a vowel suffix to a base word that ends in two consonant, **just add**.

help + ing = helping

camp + er = camper

- When adding a vowel suffix to a base word that has a vowel team, **just add**.

sweet + est = sweetest

hook + ed = hooked

shout + ing = shouting

- When adding a vowel suffix to a base word that is 1 syllable, has 1 short vowel, and 1 final consonant, **double** the consonant.

spin + ing = spinning

drum + er = drummed

spot + ed = spotted

- When adding a vowel suffix to a base word that ends in a silent e, **drop** the e and attach the suffix

time + er = timed

crave + ing = craving

solve + ed = solved

- When adding any suffix that doesn't begin with i to a base word, **change** the y to i and attach the suffix.

duty + ful = dutiful

cry + ed = cried

***cry + ing = crying**