Suffixes

A **suffix** is a set of letters joined to the end of a word to make another word, e.g. forgetful, lioness, rusty, or form of a verb, e.g. singing, waited.

### GETTING STARTED

1. **Change the following words or roots by adding either the suffixes ‘-ible’ or ‘-able’**. Use your dictionary to see if you have to change the spelling of the original word when you attach the suffix.

   - adore ____________  elig- ____________  agree ____________  terr ____________
   - enjoy ____________  force ____________  poss ____________  digest ____________
   - excite ____________  ed- ____________ ____________

2. **Decide which suffix, either ‘-er’ or ‘-or’, should be added to the following words to make a word that describes a person who does a particular job. Use your Oxford dictionary to see if you have to change the original word to make the suffix fit.**

   - act ____________  actor ____________
   - audit ____________  bank ____________  build ____________
   - edit ____________  paint ____________  profess ____________  survey ____________

3. **Which suffix, ‘-ion’ or ‘-ian’ can be added to the following words to make a noun? Check your dictionary to see if you have to change the original word to make the suffix fit.**

   - complete ____________  confuse ____________  devote ____________
   - distribute ____________  electric ____________  explode ____________
   - music ____________  reduce ____________  promote ____________

### MOVING ON

Add the suffix to two of the words below to make new words. Use each word only once.

- **-arian** occupation, group or someone who believes in something
  1. -hood state of being or group
  2. -most the most extreme point
  3. -ship a status or position, a group or skill
  4. -wards in the direction of
  5. -wise relative to

- **-ian**
  1. librarian
  2. authoritarian

**How many did you get right?**

10 = NOVICE  20 = EXPERT  30 = MAESTRO

You can use your Oxford English Dictionary for Schools and your Oxford Student’s Dictionary for these activities.