

Parts of Speech and Word Form: Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives and Adverbs

The spelling of word endings, called suffixes, changes what words can do in English. Understanding word form also helps you learn about parts of speech (Noun, Adjective, Verb, Adverb).

Parts of Speech

Noun (a person, place, thing, or concept)

Where can you find a **noun**?

- before a verb (subject of a verb) – The **dog** barked.
- after a verb (object of a verb) – walk the **dog**
- after an adjective – angry **dog**
- after an article or determiner – the **dog**, his **dog**, any **dog**
- after a preposition – with the **dog**

Verb (two kinds)

- actions: Bob (**walked, drove, ran, biked**) to school.
- states of being: Bob (**is, seemed, became**) angry.

Adjective (describes a noun)

Where can you find an **adjective**?

- before a noun – **angry** dog
- after a stative verb (be, feel, seem) – The dog is **angry**.
- after “cause” verbs (get, have, make) – She made the dog **angry**.

Adverb (modifies almost everything except nouns)

- a verb -- She walked **slowly**
- an adjective -- The bag was **extremely** heavy.
- another adverb -- She talked **very** quietly.
- at the beginning of a sentence -- **Unfortunately**, he lost his wallet.
- at the end of a sentence -- He lost his umbrella, **too**.

Suffixes

Suffixes are the endings on words. The suffix controls the part of speech. The following words all come from the root word create:

<i>create</i>	verb
<i>creative</i>	adjective
<i>creation</i>	noun
<i>creatively</i>	adverb

Like the example creative, most words ending in – ive are adjectives.

Like the example creation, most words ending in – tion are nouns.

Like the example creatively, most words ending in -ly are adverbs.

Common Suffixes

Below are lists of common suffixes for the four main parts of speech. With the example word to guide you, write two more example words for each suffix on the lines provided.

<p><u>Verb Endings</u></p> <p>-ate* refrigerate</p> <p>-ed* worked</p> <p>-en* lengthen</p> <p>-ify satisfy</p> <p>-ing* working</p> <p>-ize recognize</p> <p><u>Noun Endings</u></p> <p>-age damage</p> <p>-al* referral</p> <p>-ee employee</p> <p>-ence/-ance difference</p> <p>-ency/-ancy dependency</p> <p>-er*/-or employer</p> <p>-hood motherhood</p> <p>-ian musician</p> <p>-ing* cooking</p> <p>-ism socialism</p> <p>-ist chemist</p> <p>-ment shipment</p> <p>-ness kindness</p> <p>-ory directory</p> <p>-ship friendship</p> <p>-th length</p> <p>-tion/-ion pollution</p> <p>-ure pleasure</p> <p>-y* jealousy</p>	<p><u>Adverb Endings</u></p> <p>-ly happily</p> <p>-ward westward</p> <p><u>Adjective Endings</u></p> <p>-able/-ible comfortable</p> <p>-al* regional</p> <p>-ate* passionate</p> <p>-ed* excited</p> <p>-en broken</p> <p>-ent/-ant different</p> <p>-er* faster</p> <p>-est fastest</p> <p>-ful beautiful</p> <p>-ic economic</p> <p>-ical comical</p> <p>-ing* exciting</p> <p>-ish pinkish</p> <p>-ive creative</p> <p>-less painless</p> <p>-like childlike</p> <p>-ous/-ious dangerous</p> <p>-some handsome</p> <p>-ward* westward</p> <p>-y* happy</p>
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NOTE: An * indicates that this ending works for several parts of speech.

Example: - **ate** works for verbs (refriger**ate**) and adjectives (passion**ate**)