Name _____ Date _____

Making new nouns

Add **–er** or **–ness** to the end of a word to make a noun.

1 Learn



A **suffix** is a little group of letters we add to the **end** of a word. It makes a new word with a new job!



teach + **er** = **teacher**

–er on a **doing word** makes a **person** who does it.



kind + **ness** = **kindness**

–ness on a **describing word** makes a noun for a **feeling** or **quality**.

Let's do one: Sam helps his dad bake. What do we call Sam?

1. Find the root word: **help**. It is a doing word.

2. A person who does something, so add **–er**: help + er.

3. Sam is a **helper**. Read the sentence back: "Sam is a good helper."

Flip's tip: ask yourself, **"Is it a person who does something?"** Then it's **–er**. **"Is it a feeling or a way of being?"** Then it's **–ness**.

Warm up: add the suffix and write the new word.

farm + er = _____ sing + er = _____ dark + ness = _____

Grown-ups: read Flip's words aloud and point to each part of the word sums. Say the root word, then the whole new word, so your child hears the suffix on the end: "teach… teach**er**".

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Act it out!

You need: two scraps of paper, a pencil, and a bit of space to move.

1. Write **–er** on one scrap and **–ness** on the other. Put them on the table.
2. The grown-up acts out a **doing word**: paint, read, clean, swim… The child guesses it and taps **–er**: "You're a paint**er**!"
3. Now act out a **feeling** with your face: sad, kind, happy… The child taps **–ness**: "That's sad**ness**!" (Happy is tricky: happiness.)
4. Swap over. Write each word you make in the table.

Root word	–er or –ness?	New word

Grown-ups: after each word, ask "Is it a person, or a feeling?" If your child says "a sadder", smile and ask "Is sadness a person?" Sadder is a real word, but it compares two things (that's Chapter 4).

3 Practise

A. Draw a ring round the **suffix** in each word.

teacher	darkness	singer
kindness	painter	softness

Then colour the **–er** words (people) in one colour, and the **–ness** words in another.

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B. Draw a line from each root word to the suffix it needs. Write the new word.

farm	**–er**	farm → _____
ill		ill → _____
read	**–ness**	read → _____
fair		fair → _____

C. Make a noun from the word in brackets to fill the gap.

1. A person who teaches is a _____. (teach)
2. Mia's _____ made Leo smile. (kind)
3. The owl can see in the _____. (dark)
4. Ava plays football. She is a fast _____. (play)

D. Draw a person doing a job. Write their **–er** word.

This is a _____.

Challenge

Sam wrote: "Mia felt a lot of **sadder** when her balloon popped." Is he right? What word should he use?

_____

_____

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ find the suffix at the end of a word
- ☐ add –er to a doing word to make a person, like teacher
- ☐ add –ness to a describing word to make a feeling, like kindness