

STUDENT HANDOUT: SUFFIXES

Suffix beginning with a consonant: E.g. s, ness, less, ful, ly, ment

- Look at the beginning letter of the suffix
- If it is a consonant, just add the suffix to the root word
- E.g. frog – frogs, glad – gladness, selfish – selfishness, hand – handful, glad – gladly, enjoy – enjoyment

Suffix beginning with a vowel 1: E.g. ing, er, ed, y, en, es, est, able, ous

- Single syllable root word: E.g. sit,
- Single vowel followed by single consonant: E.g. bat, hop
- **Double** the final consonant **before** adding the suffix; sitting, batted, hopped
- E.g. shop, shopping

Suffix beginning with a vowel 2: E.g. ing, er, ed, y, en, est, able, ous

- Base word ends in e: e.g. hope
- Drop the e
- Add the vowel suffix: e.g. bake – baking, hope – hoped, shake - shaking
- Exceptions: words that end in **ce** and **ge**

Base word ends in a consonant follow by a y: E.g. merry, happy

- Change the y to i before adding the suffix
- E.g. merrily, happily

Base word ends in a vowel followed by a y: E.g. buy,

- Just add the suffix
- E.g. buy-buyer

Words which end in l: e.g. formal,

- Double the l before adding the suffix
- E.g. formally,

Words which end in ic: e.g. panic

- Add k before adding the suffix
- E.g. panic – panicking