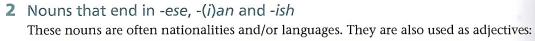
105 Forming nouns

1 Nouns that end in -er, -or, -ant/-ent and -ist
These nouns are often people and their jobs
(e.g. a teacher, a dentist):

VERB OR NOUN	+	= PERSON/JOB
teach drive build	-er	teacher driver builder
visit act	-or	visitor actor
assist study	-ant/-ent	assistant student
art journal cycle	-ist	artist journalist cyclist

Some nouns that end in -er are things, not people: cooker = a machine that cooks things photocopier = a machine that makes copies



I asked for a cook, not a cooker!

COUNTRY	+	= NATIONALITY/LANGUAGE/ADJECTIVE
China Japan Portugal	-ese	Chinese Japanese Portuguese
Italy Russia Hungary	-(i)an	Italian Russian Hungarian
England Spain Poland Sweden	-ish	English Spanish Polish Swedish

The names of some languages and nationalities do not follow these patterns (e.g. *The Netherlands* \rightarrow *Dutch, Greece* \rightarrow *Greek, Thailand* \rightarrow *Thai*).

3 Nouns that end in *-ment*, *-(t)ion*, *-ation* and *-sion* We make these nouns from verbs:

VERB	+	= NOUN
move argue govern	-ment	movement argument government
communicate educate	-ion	communication education
produce	-tion	production
examine invite inform	-ation	examination invitation information
discuss decide	-sion	discussion decision

4 Nouns that end in -ness, -ity and -ance/-ence We make these nouns from adjectives:

ADJECTIVE	+	= NOUN
happy dark ill	-ness	happiness darkness illness
able active national	-ity	ability activity nationality
important distant	-ance	importance distance
independent different silent	-ence	independence difference silence

The spelling often changes when we add letters to a word that ends with a vowel or -y: $cycle \rightarrow cyclist$, $study \rightarrow student$, $decide \rightarrow decision$, $argue \rightarrow argument$, $happy \rightarrow happiness$