

95 Forming nouns

1 Using suffixes

Suffixes are short additions to the end of words, to make new words:

bank → *banker*, *govern* → *government*

Sometimes the spelling of the original word changes when a suffix is added:
cycle + *ist* → *cyclist*, *argue* → *argument*

Karl is a **trainee** doctor. He hopes to be a **consultant** one day.

2 Jobs, beliefs and languages

	VERB OR NOUN	+ SUFFIX	= PERSON/JOB
verbs	<i>build drive teach wait</i>	-er	<i>builder driver teacher waiter</i>
	<i>employ interview pay train</i>	-ee	<i>employee interviewee payee trainee</i>
	<i>act educate instruct visit</i>	-or	<i>actor educator instructor visitor</i>
	<i>apply assist consult study</i>	-ant/ent	<i>applicant assistant consultant student</i>
nouns	<i>art cycle guitar journal</i>	-ist	<i>artist cyclist guitarist journalist</i>

⚠ Not all nouns that end in *-er* or *-or* describe people or jobs:
a *cooker* (= a machine that cooks things) a *calculator* (= a machine that can add, etc.)
Nouns that end in *-er* often have an active meaning and nouns that end in *-ee* have a passive meaning. For example, a *payee* is the person who is paid, not the person who pays.

We often add *-ism* to nouns and adjectives to describe a belief or a set of ideas:
social → *socialism*, *nation* → *nationalism*, *impression* → *impressionism*

COUNTRY	+ SUFFIX	= NATIONALITY (adjective)/LANGUAGE
<i>China Malta Portugal Vietnam</i>	-ese	<i>Chinese Maltese Portuguese Vietnamese</i>
<i>Italy Hungary Russia Slovakia</i>	-(ia)n	<i>Italian* Hungarian* Russian* Slovakian</i>
<i>Finland Poland Spain Turkey</i>	-ish	<i>Finnish Polish Spanish Turkish</i>

* These can also be used as nouns describing nationality: *Italian* → *an Italian*

⚠ The names of some languages do not follow these patterns: *The Netherlands* → *Dutch*, *Greece* → *Greek*, *France* → *French*

3 Nouns from verbs and adjectives

VERB	+ SUFFIX	= NOUN
<i>argue govern move treat</i>	-ment	<i>argument government movement treatment</i>
<i>communicate educate produce</i>	-(t)ion	<i>communication education production</i>
<i>examine explain inform invite</i>	-ation	<i>examination explanation information invitation</i>
<i>decide discuss</i>	-(s)ion	<i>decision discussion</i>

ADJECTIVE	+ SUFFIX	= NOUN
<i>blind dark happy ill</i>	-ness	<i>blindness darkness happiness illness</i>
<i>able active equal national</i>	-ity	<i>ability activity equality nationality</i>
<i>distant ignorant important</i>	-ance	<i>distance ignorance importance</i>
<i>different independent silent</i>	-ence	<i>difference independence silence</i>

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