

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITY SHEET  
STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS: INFLECTIONAL ENDINGS (PART I)

**Standard Four**

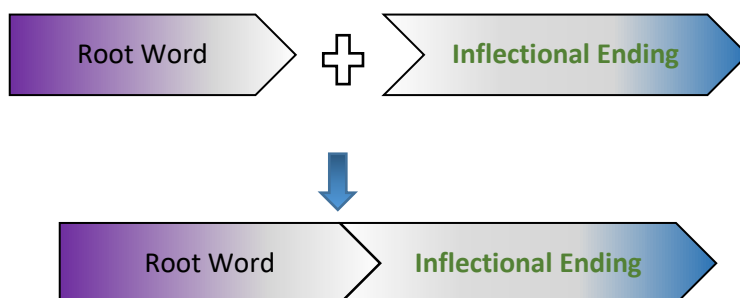
Curriculum Topic: Reading: Structural Analysis (Affixes)

Teaching Point/s: Form derivatives by adding inflectional endings to root words.

Activity:

**Inflectional Endings** are a special set of **suffixes**. Like other suffixes, they are added to the end of root words. Inflectional endings change the

- *case, gender or number* of nouns;
- *tense* of verbs and
- *degree* of adjectives and adverbs.



Below is a list of some commonly used **inflectional endings**.

**N.B.** Some inflectional endings convey more than one meaning.

<i><b>Inflectional Endings</b></i>	<i><b>Function of Inflectional Ending</b></i>	<i><b>Examples</b></i>
-es, -s	show more than one when added to <b>nouns</b>	beach <u>es</u> , table <u>s</u>
-ess	denotes the feminine form when added to <b>nouns</b>	host <u>ess</u> , govern <u>ess</u>
's	shows ownership with <b>nouns</b> that do not end in "s"	friend' <u>s</u> , niece' <u>s</u>
-ed	denotes the past tense and past participle when added to regular <b>verbs</b>	hop <u>ed</u> , land <u>ed</u>
-es, s	shows the singular form of a <b>verb</b> in the simple present tense	refus <u>es</u> , renew <u>s</u>
-ing	used to form the present participle of <b>verbs</b>	rely <u>ing</u> , do <u>ing</u>
-er, -est	form the comparative and superlative degrees respectively of <b>adjectives</b> and <b>adverbs</b>	bigger <u>er</u> , largest <u>est</u>

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GENERAL RULES GOVERNING CHANGES IN SPELLING THAT OCCUR WITH THE ADDITION OF INFLECTIONAL ENDINGS



1. If the root word ends with silent e
 

refuse<sup>e</sup>

+

-ed

→

refused
2. If the root word ends with a single vowel followed by a single consonant
 

begin<sup>n</sup>

+

-ing

→

begin<sup>n</sup>ing
3. If the root word is a noun that ends with **f** or **fe**

life<sup>fe</sup>

+

-es

→

live<sup>s</sup>
4. If the root word ends with a **y** that is preceded by a consonant
 

happy<sup>y</sup>

+

-est

→

happi<sup>i</sup>est
5. If the root word ends with s, ss, ch, sh or x
 

wrench<sup>ch</sup>

+

-es

→

wrench<sup>es</sup>

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**N.B. There are exceptions to each of the spelling rules above. Reading is the best means through which to discover and learn them.**

**Word Building**

Combine the root word and inflectional ending in each row, using the spelling rules provided.

	<b>Root Word + Inflectional Ending</b>	<b>Derivative</b>
<b><i>e.g.</i></b>	merry + est	merriest
<b><i>1.</i></b>	funny + er	
<b><i>2.</i></b>	dance + ing	
<b><i>3.</i></b>	hand + ed	
<b><i>4.</i></b>	shop + ing	
<b><i>5.</i></b>	knife + es	
<b><i>6.</i></b>	dismiss + es	
<b><i>7.</i></b>	friendly + est	
<b><i>8.</i></b>	play + ing	
<b><i>9.</i></b>	duty + es	
<b><i>10.</i></b>	copy + ing	

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Answer Key:

	Root Word + Inflectional Ending	Derivative
1.	funny + er	funnier
2.	dance + ing	dancing
3.	hand + ed	handed
4.	shop + ing	shopping
5.	knife + es	knives
6.	dismiss + es	dismisses
7.	friendly + est	friendliest
8.	play + ed	played
9.	duty + es	duties
10.	copy + ing	copying