

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

Standard Four

Curriculum Topic: Reading: Structural Analysis (Affixes)

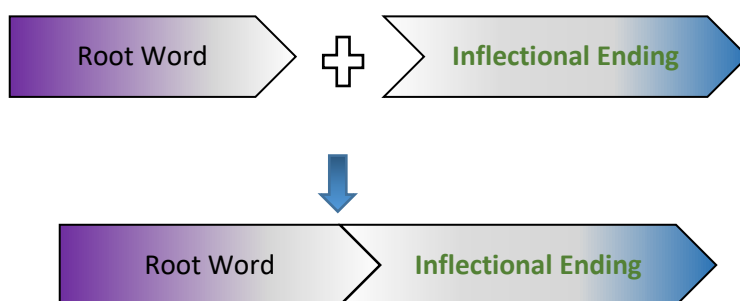
Teaching Point/s: Recognise derivatives formed through the addition of inflectional endings

Activity:

Remember:

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>Inflectional Endings</i>	<i>Function of Inflectional Ending</i>	<i>Examples</i>
-es, -s	show more than one when added to nouns	beach <u>es</u> , table <u>s</u>
-ess	denotes the feminine form when added to nouns	host <u>ess</u> , govern <u>ess</u>
's	shows ownership with nouns 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 verbs	hop <u>ed</u> , land <u>ed</u>
-es, s	shows the singular form of a verb in the simple present tense	refus <u>es</u> , renew <u>s</u>
-ing	used to form the present participle of verbs	rely <u>ing</u> , do <u>ing</u>
-er, -est	form the comparative and superlative degrees respectively of adjectives and adverbs	bigg <u>er</u> , larg <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

The inflectional ending begins with a vowel → Drop the “e” before adding the ending
2. If the root word ends with a single vowel followed by a single consonant

The inflectional ending begins with a vowel → Double the final consonant before adding the ending
3. If the root word is a noun that ends with **f** or **fe**

The inflectional ending **-es** is to be added → change the **f** or **fe** to **v**, then add the ending
4. If the root word ends with a **y** that is preceded by a consonant

The inflectional ending begins with e → Change the **y** to an **i**, then add the ending
5. If the root word ends with **s, ss, ch, sh** or **x**

The inflectional ending **-es** is used rather than **-s** → The root word remains unchanged

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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 Search

Read the paragraph below. Underline each derivative that was formed by adding one of the inflectional endings listed below.

<i>Inflectional Ending</i>	<i>Function</i>
-er, and -est	To form the comparative and superlative degrees of adjectives and adverbs
-es, and -s	To form the plural forms of nouns
- 's	To form the possessive case of nouns that do not end in s
-ess	To form the feminine forms of some nouns
-es, and -s	To form the singular form of verbs in the present tense
-ed	To form the past tense and past participle of regular verbs
-ing	To form the present participle of verbs

Although John was taller than his brother, Mark, he was the younger of the two boys. John was competitive. Each day, John tried to awake earlier than his brother. He planned to begin the chores he had been assigned on his father's farm, before Mark. He wanted to get them done before his brother completed his. Winning was very important to John.

Mark, being wiser, advised his brother, "Instead of competing against each other, let's work together."

Mark also explained that by working together, they could get more things done faster. John agreed with some hesitation. The next day the boys helped each other. A couple hours later, they completed all their duties.

John admitted, "Many hands do make light work."

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Answer Key:

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