

FIGURE 84. COMMON SUFFIXES.

SUFFIX	% OF ALL SUFFIXED WORDS	PART OF SPEECH	EXAMPLES
-s, -es	31	Plural of noun	Cats, boxes
-ed	20	Past tense of verb	Sailed
-ing	14	Progressive tense of verb	Jumping, racing
-ly	7	Usually an adverb; sometimes an adjective	Slowly, lovely
-er, -or (agent)	4	Noun (agent)	Runner, professor
-tion, -ation, -ition	4	Noun	Action, transition, vacation
-able, -ible	2	Adjective	Lovable, incredible
-al, -ial	1	Adjective	Global, logical, partial
-y	1	Adjective	Funny
-ness	1	Abstract noun	Kindness
-ity, -ty	1	Noun	Activity
-ment	1	Noun	Merriment
-ic	1	Adjective	Historic
-ous, -eous, -ious	1	Adjective	Hideous, spacious
-en	1	Verb	Quicken, thicken
-er (comparative)	1	Adjective	Bigger
-ive, -ative, -tive	1	Adjective	Alternative, pensive
-ful	1	Adjective	Wonderful
-less	1	Adjective	Effortless
-est	1	Adjective	Strongest
All others	7		

*Top 20 suffixes from Carroll, J. B., Davies, P., & Richman, B. (1971). The American heritage world frequency book. Boston: Houghten Mifflin; as cited in White, Sowell, & Yanagihara, 1989.*