

List 30. The 20 Most Common Suffixes

This is a research-based list for those who wish to see the data. These 20 suffixes account for 93 percent of occurrences.

Rank	Prefix	Meaning	%	Example
1	s, es	plurals	31	<i>boys</i>
2	ed	past-tense verbs	20	<i>wanted</i>
3	ing	verb from/present participle	14	<i>playing</i>
4	ly	characteristic of	7	<i>friendly</i>
5	er, or	person connected with	4	<i>teacher</i>
6	ion, tion, ation, ition	act, process	4	<i>action</i>
7	ible, able	can be done	2	<i>likeable</i>
8	al, ial	having characteristics of	1	<i>final</i>
9	y	characterized by	1	<i>funny</i>
10	ness	state of, condition of	1	<i>happiness</i>
11	ity, ty	state of	1	<i>activity</i>
12	ment	action or process	1	<i>enjoyment</i>
13	ic	having characteristics of	1	<i>comic</i>
14	ous, eous, ious	possessing the qualities of	1	<i>serious</i>
15	en	made of	1	<i>enliven</i>
16	er	comparative	1	<i>bigger</i>
17	ive, ative, itive	adjective form of a noun	1	<i>attentive</i>
18	ful	full of	1	<i>sorrowful</i>
19	less	without	1	<i>hopeless</i>
20	est	comparative	1	<i>biggest</i>