

# Noun suffixes

## A Verb + noun suffix

verb	suffix	noun
improve (= get better)	-ment	improvement
govern (= control affairs of a city or country)		government
manage (= direct or control a business)	-ion	management
elect (= choose somebody by voting)		election
discuss (= talk about something seriously)		discussion
inform (= tell someone something)	-ation	information
jog (= running to keep fit or for pleasure)	-ing	jogging
spell (e.g. S-P-E-L-L)		spelling

There has been a big improvement in the economy. Who do you think will win the election?  
The problems are due to bad management. I'm not very good at spelling.

## B Adjective + noun suffix

adjective	suffix	noun
weak (opp strong)	-ness	weakness
happy		happiness
ill (= sick/not well)	-ity	illness
stupid (opp intelligent, clever)		stupidity
active		activity
similar (= almost the same; opp different)		similarity

We have a weak government. What's her main weakness as a manager?  
She was ill for a long time. Hepatitis is a very serious illness.  
The two boys are quite similar. There is a similarity between all three sons.

## C Pronunciation

Adding a suffix to a verb or adjective may change the pronunciation.

verb	noun	adjective	noun
educate	education	similar	similarity
advertise	advertisement	stupid	stupidity

## D -er/-or and -ist

These suffixes can be added to nouns or verbs. They often describe people and jobs.

-er	-er	-or	-ist
ballet dancer	bus driver	television actor	artist, e.g. Picasso
pop singer	shop manager	film director	economist
murderer (= person who kills someone)	professional footballer	translator	psychologist
	employer	computer operator	journalist

# Exercises

7.1 Complete the tables and mark the stress on each word. The last two in each column are not on the opposite page, but do you know or can you guess the noun formed from them?

verb	noun	adjective	noun
educate	.....	stupid	.....
improve	.....	happy	.....
jog	.....	weak	.....
govern	.....	similar	.....
spell	.....	active	.....
hesitate	.....	sad	.....
arrange	.....	popular	.....

7.2 Combine words on the left with the correct suffix on the right to complete the text.

improve	televise	weak	govern	-ment	-ity	-ness
elect	educate	manage	stupid	-ion	-ation	

In his first broadcast on (1) television since he won the (2) ..... last month, the Prime Minister promised to make health and (3) ..... his top two priorities.

And in a strong attack on the previous (4) ....., he said that the present (5) ..... of the British economy was caused by their (6) ..... and bad (7) ..... He said things were going to change, and he hoped the British people would be able to see a big (8) ..... in the economy by the end of the year.

7.3 Write down the name of the person who does these things as a job.

- 1 drive driver ..... 3 act ..... 5 economics .....  
2 translate ..... 4 psychology ..... 6 football .....

7.4 Match words from left and right to find the names of eight jobs.

pop	bus	psychologist	dancer
shop	child	singer	manager
film	ballet	operator	driver
computer	professional	footballer	director

7.5 Complete the definitions below.

- 1 An employer is a person or company that employs people .....  
2 A murderer is a person who .....  
3 A bank manager is a person who .....  
4 A television actor is a person who .....  
5 A translator is a person who .....  
6 A lorry driver is a person who .....  
7 A journalist is a person who .....  
8 An artist such as Picasso is a person who .....