

Building Words With Grammatical Endings

Grammatical Endings Table

Grammatical Ending	Use	Spelling Changes	Example
-s	To make a word plural (more than one).	None—just add s to the end of the word.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cats letters fingers
-es	To make a word plural when the word ends in ch, sh, ss, or x.	None—just add es to the end of the word.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> benches dishes classes boxes
-ing	To say something that is currently happening.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the word ends in silent e, drop the e and add -ing. Give changes to giving. When a vowel is followed by a consonant in a one-syllable word, double the consonant and then add -ing. Swim changes to swimming. Shop changes to shopping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am eating lunch. She is drawing. We are raking the leaves. The bunny is hopping.
-ed	To say something that already happened (to make a word past tense).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When a vowel is followed by a consonant in a one-syllable word, double the consonant and then add -ed. Flip changes to flipped. When a verb ends with y and there is a vowel before it, add -ed. Play changes to played. When a verb ends with y and there is a consonant before it, change the y to i and add -ed. Try changes to tried. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She closed the door. He walked to the store. He mopped the floor. He played with the toys. She studied yesterday.
-er	To compare two or more things or people (comparative).	None—just add er to the end of the word.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tall becomes taller. Smart becomes smarter.
-est	To compare three or more things or people (superlative).	None—just add est to the end of the word, unless the word ends in y . Then change the y to i before adding -est .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tall becomes tallest. Smart becomes smartest. Happy becomes happiest.

Directions

- Review grammatical endings, which are word parts added to the end of words that affect the tense, number, or comparative/superlative. An inflectional ending is a word part that is added to the end of a base word that changes the number or tense of a base word. A base word can stand alone and has meaning (for example, **cat**, **bench**, **eat**, **walk**). Inflectional endings include **-s**, **-es**, **-ing**, **-ed**.

- The inflectional endings **-s** and **-es** change a noun from singular (one) to plural (more than one): cat/cats, bench/benches.
 - The inflectional endings **-ing** and **-ed** change the tense of a verb: eat/eating, walk/walked.
2. Review **comparative** and **superlative adjectives** and **adverbs**, which are used to compare two or more things, such as **-er** and **-est**.
 - Comparative adjectives and adverbs are used to compare two or more things. The orange cat is **bigger** than the grey cat. Notice the **-er** in **bigger**. The **-er** is the comparative ending added to the word **big**.
 - Superlative adjectives and adverbs are used to compare three or more things. Hannah is wearing the **brightest** shirt. Notice the **-est** in **brightest**. The **-est** is the superlative ending added to the word **bright**.
 3. Cut out the word cards, shuffle, and place face down in a stack.
 4. Provide your child with the activity sheet.
 5. Ask your child to:
 - Select a word card from the stack and read the word. Help your child blend the sounds together if needed.
 - Write the word in the blank before the plus sign.
 - Select a grammatical ending from the bank of grammatical endings on the Activity Sheet to add to the end of the word.
 - Write the grammatical ending in the blank after the plus sign.
 - Write the new word in the blank after the equal sign. You may need to change the spelling of the original word to create the new word.
 - Discuss the meaning of any unknown words.

Key

The key includes words your child could spell. For example **stun** could change to **stunning**.

Word	Grammatical Ending	New Word
crunch	es	crunches
dismiss	es	dismisses
modify	ed	modified
decay	ing	decaying
try	ed	tried
trim	ed	trimmed
enjoy	ed	enjoyed
clear	er	clearer
narrow	est	narrowest
admire	ing	admiring
omit	ing	omitting
box	es	boxes
stun	ed	stunned
table	s	tables

Building Words With Grammatical Endings Activity Sheet Directions

1. Select a word from the word card stack and read it.
2. On the Activity Sheet, write the word in the blank before the plus sign.
3. Select a grammatical ending from the bank of grammatical endings on the Activity Sheet below to add to the end of the word.
4. On the Activity Sheet, write the grammatical ending in the blank after the plus sign.
5. On the Activity Sheet, write the new word in the blank after the equal sign. You may need to change the spelling of the original word to create the new word.

word cards



crunch

dismiss

modify

decay

try

trim

enjoy

clear

narrow

admire

omit

box

stun

table