

Suffixes

Suffixes are word parts that come at the end of a word. They change the meaning of a root, or base word.

ful = full of

less = without, lacking

Fill in the chart below. The first one has been done for you.

Suffix	Base Word	New Word	Meaning of Word
ful	hope	hopeful	full of hope
less	hope		
ful	fear		
less	fear		
ful	care		
less	care		
ful	thought		
less	thought		

Suffixes

ful = full of

less = without, lacking

Choose a word from the word bank below to complete each sentence.
Use each word only once.

WORD BANK

thoughtful

helpless

hopeful

careful

careless

hopeless

thoughtless

helpful

1. I noticed that you were very _____ carrying the water pitcher to the table.
2. We were _____ that the electricity would soon be turned back on.
3. Her _____ errors are what caused her to fail the test.
4. It was very _____ of you to send me a birthday card.
5. Our _____ cat limped across the road to safety.
6. The _____ child only brought enough candy to school for her friends and not any for the other children in her class.
7. My teacher chooses _____ students to take care of her plants and our class hamster.
8. After striking out at the plate four times in a row, I felt _____ and believed I'd never make a very good baseball player.

Suffixes

Match each word in **Column A** with its meaning in **Column B**. Write the correct letter in each blank.

Column A

_____ 1. careless

_____ 2. thoughtless

_____ 3. hopeful

_____ 4. careful

_____ 5. helpless

Column B

a. without thought

b. full of hope

c. without or lacking help

d. without care

e. full of care

Write a sentence for each word from **Column A**

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Suffixes

Use the suffixes “ful” (full of) and “less” (without, lacking) to make new words. Use a dictionary to make sure the words you have made are correct. Write the meaning for each new word below. A sample has been done for you.

Base Word	Suffix	New Word	Meaning
harm	less	harmless	without harm
color			
success			
meaning			
worth			
joy			
use			
thank			
play			

Suffixes

Copy the sentences below, adding one of the suffixes to the word in parentheses () to complete each sentence.

ful = full of

less = without, lacking

1. The coin we found at the park was (worth).

2. A rainbow is always a (color) sight.

3. Please be (care) when you cross the street.

4. The (thought) son bought his mother flowers for Mother's Day.

5. We should be (thank) for having a home and a healthy family.

6. Although some bugs may look frightening, most are (harm).

7. Our trip to the amusement park was a (joy) experience.

8. A hammer is a (use) tool for a carpenter.

9. We chose to keep the (play) puppy from the litter of pups.

10. John was (hope) that his teacher would not give him homework on Friday.

Suffixes

ANSWER KEY

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hopeless; without or lacking hope
fearful; full of fear
fearless; without or lacking fear
careful; full of care
careless; without or lacking care
thoughtful; full of thought
thoughtless; without or lacking thought

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1. careful
2. hopeful
3. thoughtful
4. helpless
5. thoughtless
6. helpful
7. hopeless

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1. d
2. a
3. b
4. e
5. c

Sentences will vary.

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ful / colorful / full of color **OR** less / colorless / without or lacking color
ful / successful / full of success
ful / meaningful / full of meaning **OR** less / meaningless / without or lacking meaning
less / worthless / without or lacking worth
ful / joyful / full of joy
ful / useful / full of use **OR** less / useless / without or lacking use
ful / thankful / full of thanks **OR** less / thankless / without or lacking thanks
ful / playful / full of play

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1. worthless
2. colorful
3. careful
4. thoughtful
5. thankful
6. harmless
7. joyful
8. useful
9. playful
10. hopeful