



Using suffixes

A **suffix** on the end of a word changes its meaning.

Suffix	Meaning
-s, -es	means more than one (plural): eg one book but two books; one tax but too many taxes
-ing or -ed	shows when something happened - in the present (-ing) or past (-ed) tense: eg I am working there now or I worked there last week.
-er, -est	means more or most of something: eg that drink was colder (more cold) or that was the coldest drink (the most cold)
-ful or -less	shows there is a lot of something (hope ful - a lot of hope) or none of something (hope less - no hope)

Which suffix would you use in these sentences?

1. I am look___ (ing, ed) for information on Paris, but there are too many book___(s, es) to choose from in the library.
2. The woman next to me was young___ (er, est) than me, but Sarah was by far the young___ (er, est) person in the room.
3. It was really thought___ (ful, less) of you to bring that cake, especially as my son had been so care___(ful, less) in burning the one he made.
4. Are you look___ (ing, ed) for yesterday's paper? After I look___(ing, ed) at it, I put it in the recycl___ (ing, ed).

How many words can you make from these root words and suffixes?

Use the words in sentences of your own.

talk	box
rest	cook
green	use
warm	colour

s	es
ing	ed
er	est
ful	less