

Suffixes

We have been learning about suffixes.

Example:

snow – snowing walk – walked cat – cats slow – slowly

Suffixes are placed at the end of a word and they change the job the word does. This means the word changes its class e.g. noun, verb, adverb etc

Snow (noun) is the name of frozen rain.

Snowing (verb) is the action of frozen rain falling from the sky: -ing changes the noun snow into a verb snowing.

Walk (verb, present simple) is an action which we do everyday.

Walked (verb, past simple) is an action we did before now and it is finished: -ed changes walk from an action we do everyday to an action we did and have now finished.

Cat (noun) is the name of a type of animal and there is only one (singular)

Cats (noun) is the name of an animal but there are more than one (plural): -s changes the word from 1 cat to more than 1 cat.

Slow (adjective) is a word to describe something or someone.

Slowly (adverb) is a word to describe how an action done: -ly changes the word slow from describing a thing to describing an action.

Your children do not need to be able to describe suffixes in this kind of detail but they do need to be aware of the spelling and that the words have changed in this way. A good example is your child telling you that they know inside the word quickly is quick and that quickly is an adverb and quick is an adjective. Or inside the word sleeping is sleep and sleep is something they do every night and sleeping would be used if they were sleeping at that moment – but now they are talking to you!

Activity:

Add the suffixes -s, -ed, -ing, -ly to the words below. Take care to say them and make sure they make sense.

spider slow watch talk

quiet work look panda

Now use the words to write some sentences. Write one sentence with the first word and write a second with the suffix. Make sure they make sense. E.g.

There is a spider on the window.

There are two spider**s** on my bed!