

LESSON 17:

ADDING SUFFIXES THAT CHANGE WORDS' FINAL Y TO I

Host: In this lesson, we're going to learn about base words that end in consonant-y and how adding a suffix changes the ending to an *i*.

For example, when the suffix *-er* is added to *cloudy*, the *y* changes to an *i* and makes the word *cloudier*.

To make a word that ends in consonant-y plural, you change the *y* to an *i* and add an *es*. For example, *puppy* becomes *puppies*.

Teacher: Today, we'll learn another rule about base words that change when ... a suffix [is added]. It is called the final *y* rule. *Happiest* is an example of this new rule. The final *y* in the base word, *happy*, changes to *i* before the suffix, *-est*, is added. Please read this word.

Good, it is *lucky*. I want to add the suffix *-est* (*e, s, t*) to form the word *luckiest*. The final *y* rule helps me determine whether the final *y* changes to *i* before adding the suffix. The final *y* changes to *i* if the answer to the following question is "yes." Is the final *y* in the base word preceded by a consonant?

Yes, it is. Because the answer is "yes," the final *y* in the base word is changed to *i* and the suffix is added: *lucky, luckiest*. Repeat, please.

Correct: *lucky, luckiest*. What is the next word?

Correct, *silly*. I want to add *-ness* (*n, e, s, s*) to form *silliness*. Let's figure out whether the final *y* should change to *i*. Is the final *y* in the base word, *silly*, preceded by a consonant?

Yes, it is. So the final *y* changes to *i* before the suffix is added: *silly, silliness*. Repeat, please.

Good job: *silly, silliness*. Please read the next word.

Yes, *party*. I want to form the word *parties*. Is the final *y* in *party* preceded by a consonant?

Yes, so *y* is changed to *i*. When the suffix is *-s*, you add *e, s*, instead of *s*: *party, parties*. Repeat, please.

Please read the next word.

Good, *play*. I want to change *play* to *playful*. Let's see whether the final *y* rule causes me to change the final *y* to *i*. Is the final *y* in *play* preceded by a consonant?

Correct, it is not preceded by a consonant, so the final *y* does not change. *-ful* (*f, u, l*) is simply added to the base word. Read the base word and whole word, please.

Good. Remember the final *y* rule: When the final *y* of a base word is preceded by a consonant, the *y* changes to *i* when a suffix is added, regardless of whether the suffix begins with a vowel or consonant.

It is important to identify the base word and suffix in words. When reading a word with a suffix, if the letter preceding the suffix is *i*, that's a clue that the final *y* in the base word probably changes to *i*.

For example, if you see this word, you recognize the suffix *er* (*e, r*).

The word part in front of it isn't a word, but you know the final *y* rule means a final *y* was changed to *i*. We can change the *i* back to *y*.

F, u, n, n, y: *Funny* is a word you know. I can put the base word and suffix together to read the word: *funny, -er, funnier*. Repeat, please.

Take a look at the next word. I see the suffix *est* (*e, s, t*). The word part in front is spelled *s, o, g, g, i*. I'll try using a *y* instead of the *i*: *s, o, g, g, y; soggy, -est, soggiest*. Please repeat.

Good job. Here's an example sentence: "My cereal is soggy when I pour too much milk on it." Who can give me another example of something that is soggy?

Great! Let's read the rest of the words. Take a look at the next word. I see the suffix *-es* (*e, s*).

The word part in front is spelled *f, a, m, i, l, i*. I'll try using a *y* instead of the *i*: *f, a, m, i, l, y; family, -es, families*.

Good job. Here's an example sentence: "Many families travel to see each other for the holidays." Who can give me another sentence with the word *families*?

Good job. Let's take a look at the next word. I see the suffix *-ness* (*n, e, s, s*). The word part in front is spelled *h, a, p, p, i*. I'll try using a *y* instead of the *i*: *h, a, p, p, y; happy, -ness, happiness*. Please repeat.

Good job. Remember the final *y* rule: When the final *y* of a base word is preceded by a consonant, the *y* changes to *i* when a suffix is added, regardless of whether the suffix begins with a vowel or consonant.

Host: Here's a strategy designed to help students spell words that end in consonant-*y* and change when a suffix is added:

Say the word.

Say the base word and suffix.

If the base word ends in consonant-*y*, change the *y* to an *i*.

Spell the word.

Check your spelling by reading the word you wrote.

Teacher: I'll dictate words for you to spell. For each word, you'll complete an equation on your worksheet by filling in the base word, suffix, and whole word. Identifying the base word and suffix is important because it helps us know which spelling rules to follow. We'll begin by completing some equations together.

The first word is *spied*. Here's the word in a sentence: "I spied on the club, so I could learn their secrets." What's the word?

That's right, *spied*. Say the base word and suffix.

Correct: *spy*, /d/. Write *spy* on the base word part of the first equation on your worksheet. How do you spell *spy*?

Correct: *s, p, y*. I'll write the equation on the board, so you can follow along. What is the suffix?

Correct: /d/. How do you spell the suffix /d/?

That's right: *e, d*. Write that in the suffix column.

The equation says that the base word plus the suffix equals the whole word. So far, we have *spy* plus *e, d*. We must determine whether the final *y* rule will cause the base word

to change. Then we can write the whole word. What question do you ask to determine whether the base word changes?

Correct: Does the base word end with a consonant-*y*? The answer is “yes.” *Spy* has *p, y* at the end. Because the answer is “yes,” what does the final *y* rule say to do?

Correct, change the *y* to *i* and then add the suffix. Excellent, please write the whole word on your worksheet.

Please say the word and then spell it.

Spied, s, p, i, e, d. Nice job, everyone!

The next word is *copies*. Repeat, please.

Say the base word and suffix.

Copy, /z/. Write the base word and suffix on your worksheet. How do you spell the base word?

Good job: *c, o, p, y.* How is the suffix spelled?

That is correct. It is spelled *s*. I’m pleased you remembered that even though the suffix says */z/*, it is formed by the letter *s*. What is the extra rule about the suffix *s* when you are applying the final *y* rule?

Right, if you change the *y* to *i*, add *e, s*. Excellent! Now you’re ready to spell the whole word. Complete the rest of the equation for *copies*.

How did you spell *copies*?

Yes: *c, o, p, i, e, s.* Great job, everyone!

Host:

In this lesson, we learned about the final *y* rule. If the base word ends in consonant-*y*, change the *y* to an *i* before adding a suffix.