

Rule 15: less, ment, ful & ness suffixes



Parent information

- This teaching resource is organised into four sections:
1) Explanation of the rule **2)** Examples of key words that fit the rule **3)** Opportunities to practise **4)** Further examples of commonly used words following the rule & some notable exceptions.
- These slides are intended as a starting point for teaching this rule. The lists of words given at the end might be used for card sorting exercises or a variety of spelling games.

1) Rule 15: Explanation

Suffixes are added to the end of a root word.

endless movement useful darkness

less: without

ment: action / process

ful: full of

ness: state of being

For root words ending in 'y':

CHANGE IT or **KEEP IT!**

enjoyy > enjoiment or enjoyment? Why?

happy > happiness or happyness? Why?

2) Rule 15: Examples

Where have I just added the suffix?

Which root words would have ended in 'y'?

careless

sickness

powerful

enjoyment

treatment

penniless

angriness

painful

helpful

movement

harmless

silliness

THINK: Which root words could you add a different suffix too? *less / ment / ful / ness*

3) Rule 15: Practice

Decide which suffix can be added: *less, ment, ful, ness*.

REMEMBER: If it ends in 'y' **CHANGE** IT or **KEEP** IT!

Starter

hope (*+less*)

power (*+ful*)

kind (*+ness*)

state (*+ment*)

point (*+less*)

Challenge 1

help

pay

peace

happy

punish

Challenge 2

employ

delight

lonely

invest

mercy

THINK: How many have more than one answer?

4) Rule 15: Further examples

less

end
use
home
hope
help
harm
point
care
fear
speech
spot
mind
(after a 'y')
joy
penny
mercy

ment

govern
develop
manage
move
depart
agree
treat
state
invest
pay
punish
(after a 'y')
pay
employ
enjoy
accompany

ful

success
use
help
wonder
power
care
hand
pain
peace
dread
delight
(after a 'y')
beauty
mercy
joy
play

ness

aware
dark
weak
sick
fit
sad
good
kind
fair
bright
mad
(after a 'y')
happy
lonely
empty
dizzy

Note

Some words can take more than one of these suffixes.

E.g. joyless, joyful.

Some of these root words can also take several suffixes at the same time.

E.g. peacefulness, carelessness

Exceptions

Some root words with one syllable keep the 'y' before a suffix.

E.g. shyness, dryness.