

Activity Type

Listening and speaking activity, group work

Language Focus

Suffixes

Aim

To guess words that contain certain suffixes from given clues.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two worksheets.

If you want the students to play in groups, make one copy of the two worksheets for each group of five.

Level

Intermediate

Time

20 minutes

Introduction

In this fun suffixes game, students guess words that contain certain suffixes from given clues.

Procedure

Copy the five-by-five hexagon grid from the worksheet on the board and write the suffixes into the 25 hexagons.

Divide the class into two teams and allocate each team with a colour, e.g. red and blue.

The two teams then decide which direction they want to play - top to bottom or left to right.

Explain that the aim of the game is to connect the hexagons from one side of the grid to the other.

Tell the students that this is a fairly strategic game and they need to choose their moves carefully in order to win the game, blocking the other team when necessary.

Start with the center hexagon. Give a clue for the suffix in the hexagon (-sect), i.e., to cut.

The two teams then race to say a related word with that suffix, e.g. dissect.

The first team to give a suitable word wins the hexagon and it is coloured accordingly. The winning team then chooses the next hexagon.

Give the clue for the suffix in that hexagon and both teams race to answer as before.

The first team to connect their hexagons from top to bottom or left to right wins the game.

This game can also be played in groups of five with two teams of two and one quizmaster who reads the clues.

Note: This is an editable PDF. To edit the document, select the Edit PDF tool in Acrobat.

Clues and possible answers

- ian : a person belonging to a country, e.g. Hungarian, Italian.
- ant : a person who helps, e.g. assistant, participant.
- age : a journey, e.g. pilgrimage, voyage.
- er : a job, e.g. banker, teacher, painter.
- ee : a person who receives an action, e.g. employee, nominee, refugee.
- aholic : a person with an obsession, e.g. workaholic, shopaholic.
- cide : an act of killing, e.g. homicide, suicide, genocide.
- crat : someone who has power, e.g. aristocrat, bureaucrat, technocrat.
- ess : female, e.g. actress, heiress, lioness.
- like : to resemble something, e.g. childlike, homelike, lifelike.
- less : without something, e.g. hopeless, fearless, restless.
- sect : to cut, e.g. dissect, bisect.
- ward : in a certain direction, e.g. backward, afterward.
- en : to increase, e.g. widen, heighten.
- ist : a person with a creative or academic role, e.g. artist, botanist.
- ology : a science or theory, e.g. biology, theology.
- ness : a state or quality, e.g. sadness, weakness, kindness.
- full : full of, e.g. colourful, beautiful, helpful.
- cule : very small, e.g. miniscule, molecule.
- ship : a position held, e.g. ownership, internship.
- arium : a place, e.g. terrarium, aquarium, solarium.
- able : capable of being, e.g. preventable, adaptable, predictable.
- ing : materials, e.g. roofing, bedding.
- log : speech, e.g. dialog, monolog.
- tion : a process, e.g. navigation, education.

