



Examining Word Parts: Suffixes

A **suffix** is a group of letters added to the end of a base word to change the word's meaning or part of speech.

The suffixes **-ion**, **-tion**, and **-ation** mean “**condition or process of**.”

The suffix **-ment** means “**act or process of**.”

Adding either of these suffixes to a word changes it from a verb to a noun.



Analyze Suffixes

Underline the suffix in the word. Then write the base word and the meaning of each noun.

Noun With Suffix	Base Word	Meaning of Noun
1. amend <u>ment</u>	amend	the act or process of amending; a change
2. information		
3. discussion		
4. achievement		
5. government		
6. disruption		

Apply Meaning

Read each sentence. Then complete it using nouns with suffixes from the chart above.

- State lawmakers agreed that (a/an) _____ was needed.
- The *Tinker* case started a nationwide _____ about free speech.
- A student was suspended because his speech caused (a/an) _____.
- The Supreme Court considers all the _____ before making decisions.
- One _____ of the Bill of Rights is the guarantee of a fair trial.
- The _____ needs court approval to gather online data.

Multiple-Meaning Words

Multiple-meaning words have more than one meaning. For example, *fair* can mean “equal” or “an outdoor event.” Use context clues to help find the intended meaning of multiple-meaning words.

Multiple-Meaning Words in Context

As a noun, *rule* means “an instruction about behavior.” As a verb, it can mean “to make a legal decision.” Underline the context clues that clarify the meaning of *rules* in the sentences below.

*“They wrote the Constitution to set **rules** for how the United States governs itself.”*

—“Bill of Rights”

*“A federal judge **rules** the NSA is likely violating the Fourth Amendment.”*

—“A History of Listening In”

Analyze Multiple-Meaning Words

Read each sentence. Then write the part of speech and definition of each word in bold. Use a dictionary if needed.

Multiple-Meaning Word	Part of Speech	Definition
1. Delaware was the first state admitted to the Union.	noun	an area that is part of a country
2. The first 10 amendments state the basic freedoms of all Americans.		
3. We watched the president’s speech on the monitor .		
4. The NSA wants to monitor conversations between suspects.		

Write sentences using the part of speech and definition provided for each multiple-meaning word.

5. **case** (*noun, a trial*) The judge told the jury not to discuss the case outside of court.

6. **case** (*noun, an example*) _____

7. **fine** (*noun, money paid as punishment*) _____

8. **fine** (*adjective, of high quality*) _____