

Mastering Morphological Mastery: Suffixes and Word Families

Learning objective: To investigate and apply the rules for adding suffixes to words of more than one syllable, focusing on the -ing, -ed, -er, and -est endings.

Read the passage below featuring Max the monkey. Pay close attention to how the base words change when suffixes are added. Complete the exercises to demonstrate your understanding of spelling patterns and morphological shifts.

Max the monkey was busy gardening in the forest canopy. He was targeting a specific branch to build his new observation deck. 'This is the happiest I have ever been,' Max declared, while he offered a helping hand to a fellow explorer. He had preferred to work in the morning, but he found his time was limited. Without forgetting his trusty calculator, he began the process of measuring the tree's circumference. He was beginning to realise that even the tallest trees required precise planning.

Word bank: beginning · gardening · happiest · offered · limited · preferred · forgetting · targeting

1. Identify the root words for 'beginning' and 'preferred'. Explain the spelling rule applied to the final consonant before adding the suffix. (2 marks)

2. Why does the word 'happiest' end in -iest rather than -yest? Justify your answer using your knowledge of grammatical rules. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the spelling of 'gardening' and 'forgetting'. Why does one require a double consonant and the other does not? (2 marks)

4. What might happen if Max added the suffix -ing to the word 'target'? Rewrite the sentence using the word 'targeting' to ensure it remains grammatically correct. (2 marks)

5. Identify one word in the text that contains a prefix and a suffix. Break it down into its constituent parts. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Max the monkey using his tools to measure a tree. Include labels using words from the word bank that describe his actions.



Extension challenge: Choose three words from the word bank and create a complex sentence for each. Then, investigate the word 'magnificent'. Can you add a suffix to this word, or does it require a different approach? Explain your findings in a short paragraph.