

Another Suffix

CK-12 English

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Another Suffix with <ss>

Using the suffix -ess to add the meaning "female" or "feminine"

Another Suffix <ss>



[Figure1]

In many words the sound [s] is spelled <ss> in the suffixes -less and -ness. Another suffix that ends <ss> is -ess, which adds the meaning "female, feminine" to nouns: *host* "male" + *ess* = *hostess* "female"

Sometimes, when -ess is added to a male noun that ends in the suffixes -er or -or, an unusual deletion occurs: *waiter* + *ess* = *wait* ~~er~~ + *ess* = *waitress*; *actor* + *ess* = *act* ~~or~~ + *ess* = *actress*. In these cases when the -ess is added, we delete the <e> or <o> in front of the final <r>.

Today we are less anxious to distinguish between males and females in our words than people were in the past. Some people find words ending in -ess to be offensive, and many of the -ess words are falling out of use. But we still do use a number of words that contain -ess and thus the <ss> spelling of [s].

Examples

In the male nouns ending in -er or -or that you have worked with so far, the -ess was added to the male noun. Sometimes, however, the -ess is added to the same stem to which the -er or -or is added to form the male noun, as with the stem *sorcer*.

Stem	Male Noun: Stem plus -er or -or	Female Noun: Stem plus -ess
sorcer	sorcerer	sorceress

Review

Analyze each of the following nouns into stem noun and suffix. Show any changes that took place when the suffix and stem combined:

Noun	= Stem Noun	+ Suffix
1. hostess	= <i>host</i>	+ <i>ess</i>
2. lioness	=	+
3. goddess	=	+
4. princess	=	+
5. countess	=	+
6. poetess	=	+

Now try some the other away around. Add the suffix -ess to the stem nouns to form new nouns, showing any changes:

Stem Noun	+ Suffix	= Noun
7. priest	+ <i>ess</i>	= <i>priestess</i>
8. giant	+	=
9. steward	+	=
10. shepherd	+	=
11. prince	+	=
12. god	+	=

Analyze the following words to show that change:

Noun	= Stem Noun	+ Suffix
13. waitress	= <i>wait</i> <i>r</i>	+ <i>ess</i>
14. actress	= <i>act</i> <i>r</i>	+ <i>ess</i>
15. tigress	=	+
16. huntress	=	+
17. enchantress	=	+
18. eldress	=	+
19. tempter	=	+
20. mister	=	+

Write out the male and female nouns in the two right hand columns and be ready to talk about any changes that too place:

Stem	Male Noun: Stem plus -er or -or	Female Noun: Stem plus -ess
21. murder		
22. govern		
23. adventure		
24. launder		

Review (Answers)

Noun	= Stem Noun	+ Suffix
1. hostess	= <i>host</i>	+ <i>ess</i>
2. lioness	= <i>lion</i>	+ <i>ess</i>
3. goddess	= <i>god+d</i>	+ <i>ess</i>
4. princess	= <i>princ e</i>	+ <i>ess</i>
5. countess	= <i>count</i>	+ <i>ess</i>
6. poetess	= <i>poet</i>	+ <i>ess</i>

Stem Noun	+ Suffix	= Noun
7. priest	+ <i>ess</i>	= <i>priestess</i>
8. giant	+ <i>ess</i>	= <i>giantess</i>
9. steward	+ <i>ess</i>	= <i>stewardess</i>
10. shepherd	+ <i>ess</i>	= <i>shepherdess</i>
11. prince	+ <i>ess</i>	= <i>princess</i>
12. god +d	+ <i>ess</i>	= <i>goddess</i>

Noun	= Stem Noun	+ Suffix
13. waitress	= <i>wait e</i>	+ <i>ess</i>
14. actress	= <i>act o</i>	+ <i>ess</i>
15. tigress	= <i>tig e</i>	+ <i>ess</i>
16. huntress	= <i>hunt e</i>	+ <i>ess</i>
17. enchantress	= <i>enchant e</i>	+ <i>ess</i>
18. eldress	= <i>eld e</i>	+ <i>ess</i>
19. temptress	= <i>tempt e</i>	+ <i>ess</i>
20. misteress	= <i>mist e</i>	+ <i>ess</i>

Stem	Male Noun Stem plus -er or -or	Female Noun Stem plus -ess
21. murder	<i>murderer</i>	<i>murderess</i>
22. govern	<i>governor</i>	<i>governess</i>
23. adventure	<i>adventurer</i>	<i>adventuress</i>
24. launder	<i>launderer</i>	<i>laundress</i>

1.0 REFERENCES

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