

12 Words With Suffixes (-al, -ive, -ous)

Be a Word Architect

Learn

More!

Vocabulary Words

ambitious	marginal
competitive	objective
consecutive	occupational
constructive	perpetual
cultural	seasonal
defensive	spacious
destructive	tenuous
expressive	

Word Learning Tip!

A suffix is a word part that is added to the end of a complete word or word root. A suffix adds to the meaning of the word or root and may change its part of speech. The suffixes *-al*, *-ive*, and *-ous* all form adjectives.

Vocabulary Building Strategy

Use Suffixes When you add the meaning of the suffix to the meaning of the word or root, you will often be able to determine the meaning of the new word. A root needs a prefix and suffix added to it to make a word. To learn a new word, add the meaning of the word parts, and think of a meaning that makes sense in the sentence where the word appears.

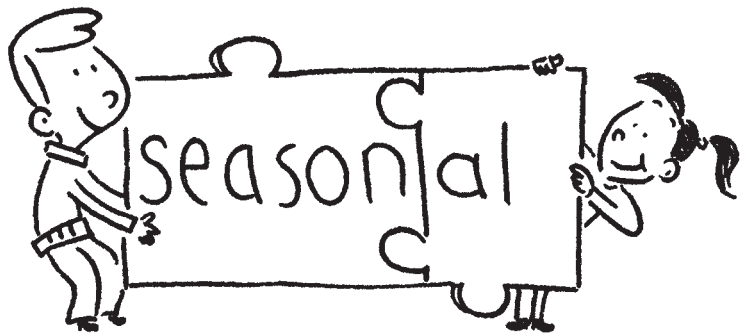
When you read an unfamiliar word with the suffixes *-al*, *-ive*, or *-ous*, you know one thing right away: The word is an adjective. You can use the meaning of the suffix to help you determine the meaning of the unfamiliar word. For example, *competitive* is an adjective that means “tending to compete.” In other words, someone who is *competitive* likes to compete or to try to win.

Suffix	Meaning
-al	of, like, relating to, characterized by
-ive	tending to, having the quality of, causing or making
-ous	full of, having the quality of

You can add the suffix *-al* to the word *season* to form the word *seasonal*. season + al = seasonal

You can add the suffix *-ous* to the root *tenu* to form the word *tenuous*. tenu + ous = tenuous

Sometimes, the spelling of the end of the word changes slightly to add the suffix.

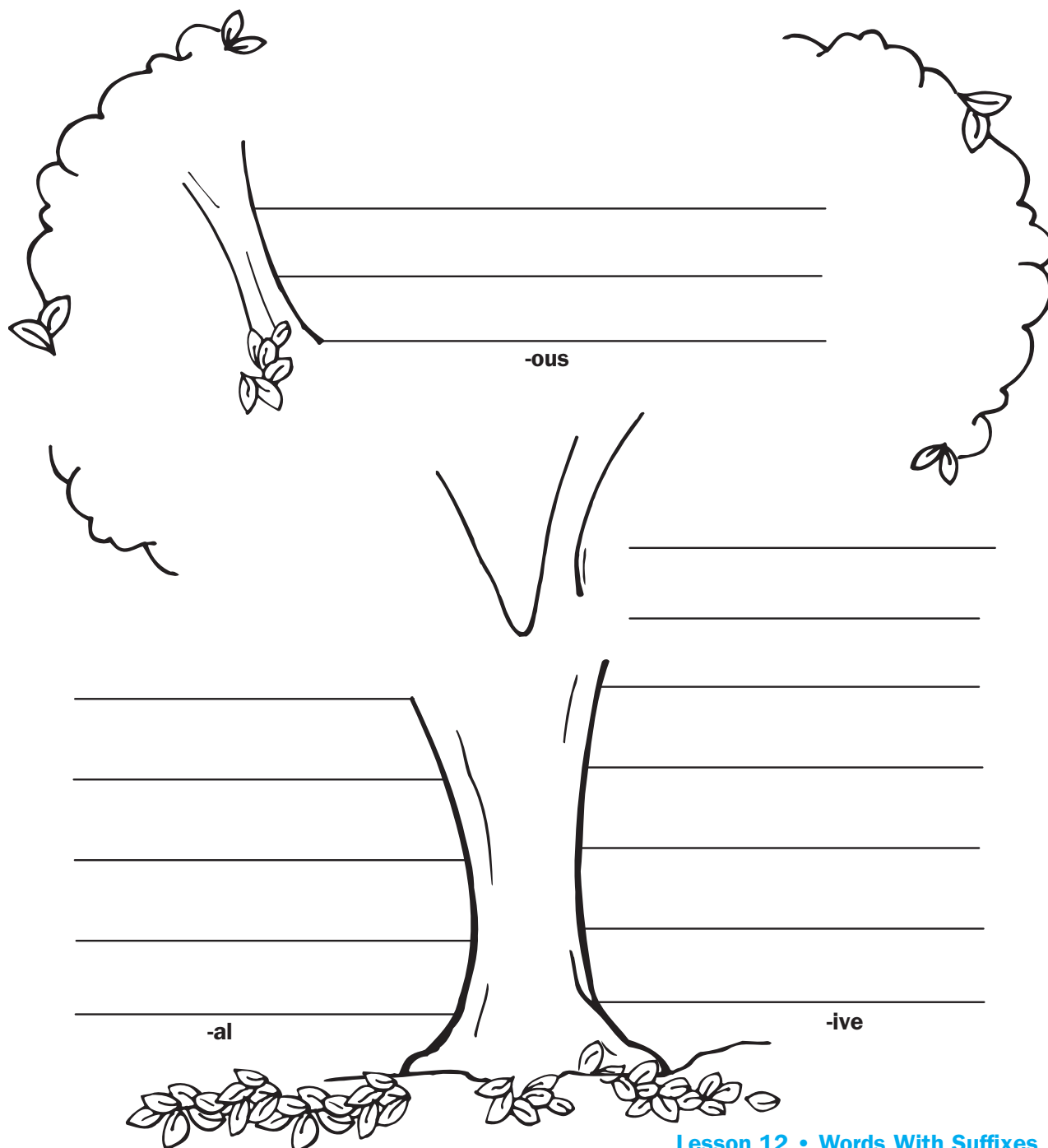


Hunt for Words Find other words that use these three suffixes. Look in books, newspapers, and magazines. Write the words along with definitions in your personal word journal. Also write the sentence in which you find each word. Then add the new words to the suffix tree.

Be a Word Architect

ambitious	constructive	destructive	objective	seasonal
competitive	cultural	expressive	occupational	spacious
consecutive	defensive	marginal	perpetual	tenuous

Directions Look at each branch of the suffix tree below. Place each vocabulary word in a blank on the correct branch. Circle the suffix in the word.



12 Words With Suffixes (-al, -ive, -ous)

Connect Words and Meanings

ambitious	constructive	destructive	objective	seasonal
competitive	cultural	expressive	occupational	spacious
consecutive	defensive	marginal	perpetual	tenuous

Directions Read each definition below. Then show that you understand the definition by answering the question that follows it.

- spacious** having a lot of space; roomy
Which would you describe as spacious—a crowded city or an open field in the country? Why?

- objective** unbiased; not having a personal interest; based on the facts or having the quality of an object or goal
Why does a judge have to be objective and fair?

- occupational** having to do with an occupation or job
What are two occupational hazards that a gymnast faces?

- ambitious** having ambition; striving for a goal
Do you think that you need to be ambitious and willing to work hard to make your dreams come true? Why?

- destructive** tending to destroy and cause a lot of damage and unhappiness
Why do people who live near the water worry about the destructive force of a hurricane?

- cultural** relating to culture, especially the arts, sciences; or relating to customs
What types of cultural events do you enjoy?

- competitive** relating to competition; being eager to win
If you were on a football team, would you want your other team members to be competitive or not?

- constructive** helpful and useful; helping to build, improve, and advance
How can your teacher's constructive comments help you improve your writing?

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Connect More Words and Meanings

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Directions Continue the activity. Read each definition below. Then show that you understand the definition by answering the question that follows it.

9. **consecutive** proceeding from one to the next in order or sequence

How do you feel when it rains for three consecutive days?

10. **expressive** showing or expressing feelings or meanings

Why is it important for an actor to have an expressive face?

11. **seasonal** relating to a season; occurring during a season

If a store sells seasonal clothing in the summer, what types of items could you buy?

12. **defensive** serving to defend yourself or others; protective

Why should a good driver be alert and on the defensive?

13. **marginal** relating to the border or margin of something; borderline; not important

When there is a drought, why do some farmers have only a marginal or borderline existence?

14. **perpetual** lasting forever, permanent; constant

Why do people sometimes place a perpetual light on a grave or memorial?

15. **tenuous** long and thin; not very strong or substantial; flimsy

Why does a lawyer need to present a solid case, not a tenuous one, to convince a jury of her client's innocence?



Talk about Cultural Events Work in small groups. Talk about some of your favorite cultural events that take place in your community. Which event is your favorite? Why? If you could choose any cultural event to visit your community, which kind of an event would it be? Use as many vocabulary words as you can to explain your answer.

12 Words With Suffixes (-al, -ive, -ous)

Learn Words in Context

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News Flash—New State Park to Begin Construction

The new park will be the most **ambitious** project the Department of Natural Resources has undertaken in the past four years. The more than 500 square miles planned for the park will be **spacious** enough to protect some endangered wildlife. At the same time, it will provide **cultural** events, such as art and music concerts, as well as **competitive** activities, such as cross-country ski races and ice-skating. The park will have many **seasonal** uses. These will range from skiing in the winter to swimming in the summer.

In a specially zoned area of the park, efforts will be made to bring back timber wolves. Wolves have not been seen in this state for decades. People have made strong arguments, not **tenuous** or flimsy ones, to bring them back. Now these arguments are being listened to. Of course, there is danger, but the park will take **defensive** measures to protect people from the wolves. For example, in **marginal** areas they will build fences to ensure that wolves do not cross into nearby farmland. Many people hope that this park will be a **perpetual** haven for wolves and other endangered wildlife. Its existence may ensure that some of the **destructive** policies toward wolves will end.

By preserving our state's natural beauty, the park will be a **constructive** and useful force in the lives of our citizens. The reasons for preserving nature are both subjective—because we love its beauty—and **objective**—because good parks help our economy. This park will be truly **expressive** of our state motto, “Doing Better.”

Construction of park trails and facilities should begin this month and continue for the next two **consecutive** years.

Occupational needs will include park rangers, maintenance crews, and a resident supervisor, as well as seasonal employees, such as lifeguards. See future reports for more details.



Plan a Park Make a plan for a park that you would like to see where you live. Sketch a map on a sheet of paper showing the areas in and uses of the park. Add labels and brief word descriptions. Use as many vocabulary words as you can, along with other *-al*, *-ive*, and *-ous* words you know!

Use Words in Context

ambitious	constructive	destructive	objective	seasonal
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Directions Write the vocabulary word that best fits in the blank to complete each sentence of this political debate.

Senator Goode: The people of our state need a new park for **(1)**_____ events, such as band concerts and poetry readings. A new park would be a(n) **(2)**_____ undertaking, yes. It would take a lot of time and money. But it would also be a wonderful addition to our community, and reflect most people's love for nature.

Senator Meany: The senator is just being silly and emotional. He is not dealing with hard, cold facts. There is no **(3)**_____ reason to build more parks in this state. It would not be useful or improve our community. Nature is an unimportant, **(4)**_____ or borderline issue. We have stronger, more important issues to discuss.

Senator Goode: Once again my friend and colleague, Senator Meany, is showing that she is a **(5)**_____ force, not a force for positive change. She is not **(6)**_____ since she only wants to tear down. She is so eager to be elected governor that she no longer cares about nature, since animals don't vote.

Senator Meany: I see that my honorable opponent is eager to win the governorship and is being very **(7)**_____. But I like strong competition. It only makes me stronger.


Senator Goode: Senator Meany is attacking me so that I might become very **(8)**_____ about my position. I don't need to defend myself. For eight **(9)**_____ years she has been blocking every decent new law that has come into this senate.

Senator Meany: Once again my dear friend, Senator Goode, is not telling the truth. I have sponsored the Meany Bill to give **(10)**_____ training to people looking for jobs.

Senator Goode: Well, you'll be out of a job this fall if there's anything I can do about it.

Senator Meany: Oh really?

Senator Goode: Yes!

 **Give a Speech!** Work with a partner. Plan, practice, and deliver a brief speech either for or against creating more nature preserves in your area. Write the speech in your personal word journal. Use at least three vocabulary words and other words using the same suffixes.

12 Words With Suffixes (-al, -ive, -ous)

Review and Extend

ambitious	constructive	destructive	objective	seasonal
competitive	cultural	expressive	occupational	spacious
consecutive	defensive	marginal	perpetual	tenuous

Directions Read each sentence. In the blank, write the suffix that completes each vocabulary word. Then follow the directions to form a new word with the same suffix.

New Words

aggressive **cautious** **recreational** **subjective** **successive**

- At the national park last summer, Marta and her friends camped out for five consecut_____ days by a beautiful waterfall. Another word that means the same is _____ (success + ive).
- Everyone has his or her own tastes and opinions about vacations. It's impossible to be completely object_____ about vacations. The opposite of objective is _____ (subject + ive).
- Some people like country vacations, such as staying at a cottage next to a quiet lake. Other people like more ambiti_____ vacations, such as climbing mountains. If you don't like risks, you might want to be more _____ (cauti + ous) and stay at home.
- While some people like the woods or the sea, others prefer cultur_____ tours of art museums and old buildings in great cities. Do you prefer _____ (recreation + al) activities that allow you to be more active?
- Competit_____ activities such as kayak races and swimming competitions can be part of a vacation. You don't have to be too _____ (aggress + ive) to take part in these activities.

Directions Use each new word in a sentence.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Describe an Ideal Summer Vacation Write a paragraph of four to six sentences describing an ideal summer. Explain why it's ideal for you. Use as many *-al*, *-ive*, and *-ous* words as you can!

Check Your Mastery

Directions Choose the correct vocabulary word to complete each sentence. Write it in the blank.

Are you all set for the mountain bike rally? This event, which occurs every May, is one of our community's favorite **1.**_____ (*occupational, objective, seasonal*) activities. One hundred eager and **2.**_____ (*consecutive, constructive, ambitious*) bicyclists gather together at the starting line, ready and waiting for the signal. These hard-pedaling, **3.**_____ (*competitive, cultural, defensive*) folks all believe that they are going to be the winners.

When you look at it from a(n) **4.**_____ (*objective, destructive, marginal*) standpoint, winning isn't as important as having fun when doing healthy exercise. Bicycling up and down the red dirt hills, surrounded by green trees and a(n) **5.**_____ (*spacious, perpetual, competitive*) open sky is a total pleasure, whether you're in a race or just going for a ride.

The benefits of riding have been proven. The evidence is not **6.**_____ (*defensive, tenuous, cultural*) or flimsy. People agree that riding in the fresh air is one of the most **7.**_____ (*destructive, constructive, cultural*) steps you can take to stay in shape.

Seventy-year-old Cyrus Polk has been bicycling in these hills all his life. He has raced in the past six **8.**_____ (*consecutive, marginal, objective*) rallies. Retired from work, he says, "My job was selling cars. A(n) **9.**_____ (*occupational, perpetual, tenuous*) hazard was not getting enough exercise. But now I much prefer to ride bikes." Mr. Polk's happy, **10.**_____ (*defensive, constructive, expressive*) face lights up at the thought of a day riding in the countryside.