

LINA01 – Affixes in English (adapted from O’Grady, 2008).

A SHORT LIST OF DERIVATIONAL SUFFIXES IN ENGLISH			
Suffixes	Attaches to	Creates	Examples
-al	V →	N	refuse-al, recit-al, deni-al
-ant	V →	N	defend-ant, applic-ant, contest-ant
-(at)ion	V →	N	protect-ion, accumulate-ion
-er	V →	N	teach-er, swim-er
-ing₁	V →	N	the shoot-ing, the sing-ing
-ment	V →	N	treat-ment, judge-ment
-able	V →	A	do-able, understand-able
-ing₂	V →	A	the swimm-ing frog, the scream-ing child
-ive	V →	A	impress-ive, suggest-ive
-dom	N →	N	king-dom, star-dom
-ful	N →	A	content-ful, faith-ful
-(i)al	N →	A	nation-al, abyss-al
-(i)an	N →	A	Arab-ian, Canad-ian
-ic	N →	A	optimist-ic, patriot-ic
-ize₁	N →	V	hospital-ize, patron-ize
-less	N →	A	job-less, penni-less
-ous	N →	A	poison-ous, joy-ous
-ish	A →	A	tall-ish, small-ish
-ate	A →	V	activ-ate, captiv-ate
-en	A →	V	black-en, hard-en
-ize₂	A →	V	real-ize, modern-ize
-ity	A →	N	real-ity, stupid-ity
-ness	A →	N	kind-ness, dark-ness

A SHORT LIST OF DERIVATIONAL PREFIXES IN ENGLISH			
Prefixes	Attaches to	Creates	Examples
anti-	N	→ N	anti-propaganda, anti-pollution
ex-	N	→ N	ex-wife, ex-friend
de-	V	→ V	de-activate, de-accelerate
dis-	V	→ V	dis-place, dis-continue
mis-	V	→ V	mis-place, mis-appropriate
re-	V	→ V	re-think, re-tie
un₁-	V	→ V	un-tie, un-do
in-	A	→ A	in-sensitive, in-competent
un₂-	A	→ A	un-happy, un-apologetic

English Inflectional Suffixes			
English Suffix	Function	Attaches to	Examples
-s	Plural	Nouns	The <i>cats</i> My <i>friends</i>
-'s	Possessive	Nouns	The <i>cat's</i> food My <i>friend's</i> house
-s	3rd Person Singular	Verbs	The cat <i>meows</i> My friend <i>walks</i> to school
-ing	Progressive/Continuous	Verbs	The cat is <i>eating</i> My friend is <i>calling</i> me.
-ed	Past Tense	Verbs	The cat <i>climbed</i> the stairs My friend <i>knocked</i> on my
-en/-ed	Past Participle	Verbs	The cat has <i>eaten</i> her food My friends have <i>played</i>
-er	Comparative	Adjectives	The <i>happier</i> cat The <i>funnier</i> friend
-est	Superlative	Adjectives	The <i>biggest</i> cat The <i>niciest</i> friend