

Adding suffixes

Objective

To add suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in 'fer'.

Background knowledge

Children in Year 6 should know the difference between a stressed and an unstressed syllable. When adding a suffix beginning with a vowel letter to a word ending in 'fer', it is helpful for the children to say the word aloud to identify where the stress or emphasis falls so they can decide whether they need to double the 'r'. If the syllable 'fer' is still stressed after the suffix is added, the 'r' is doubled – for example, *referral*; if the syllable 'fer' is unstressed, the 'r' is not doubled – for example, *preference*.

Activities

● Photocopiable page 32 'Stressed or unstressed?'

The first part of the first activity is to ensure that children can identify stressed and unstressed syllables; it doesn't deal with the 'fer' rule: the doubling (or not) of the letter 'r'. The second part moves on to this once they are secure in knowing the difference between stressed and unstressed syllables. It is useful for the children to say the words out loud, initially with exaggerated emphasis, to help establish whether the syllable is stressed or unstressed.

● Photocopiable page 33 'Single or double?'

In this activity the children are seeing the words in context and are applying learned spelling rules. Children should be encouraged to use a dictionary to help them write the sentences using the words in context, as they just might need clarification on the meaning of some, but only after they first have a go at spelling the words correctly.

● Photocopiable page 34 'Finding fer words'

In this word search activity, children will hunt for hidden words containing the letter string 'fer', then decide – based on the spelling of either single 'r' or double 'r' – which ones stress the 'fer' syllable and which ones don't.

Further ideas

● **Card game:** In the middle of each table, space out some cards showing words such as *transfer* or *prefer* and suffixes starting with a vowel – for example, 'ence' or 'ed' – face down. Children have their own 'bank' of cards showing the letter 'r'. In pairs, children take it in turns to turn over two cards at a time. They won't always get a 'fer' and a suffix – the game is a bit like 'fish'; in other words, it is a memory game too. If they get two of the same kind, they replace them face down in the exact same spot. As and when they get a 'fer' word and a suffix, they need to decide whether they will need to use one of their 'r' cards, depending on the syllable stress.

● **Double or quit:** Create some incorrectly spelled words, where the 'r' is doubled incorrectly or not doubled incorrectly, and show them on the whiteboard. The winner is the first to write the correct spelling of all the words. Take this to the next level by including some correctly spelled words too.

Digital content

On the digital component you will find:

- Printable versions of all three photocopiable pages.
- Answers to all three photocopiable pages.

Adding suffixes

Stressed or unstressed?

■ Say the words below out loud. Then underline the syllable that is **stressed** in each.

dismay
observe
dislike
final
garden
candle

thorough
circle
runway
snowman
tractor
horrid

■ Now look at the words below, which end in the letter string **fer**. Remember the rule: *double the r if the fer syllable is stressed when you add a suffix starting with a vowel.*

■ Complete the table below, following the rule above (the shaded boxes are for words that cannot be completed).

	ed	al	ing	ence
refer				
infer				
transfer				
prefer				
confer				

Adding suffixes

Single or double?

- Complete the sentences below by adding an appropriate suffix to each root word, remembering the spelling rule.

The football (refer) _____ said the goal was off-side.

After the (confer) _____, our head teacher was very tired.

Our dog was (refer) _____ to a specialist vet.

My mum (offer) _____ to take us swimming.

We went to Spain last year but I much (prefer) _____ France.

- Add a suffix to each of the following words to make a new word. Then write a sentence using each in context.

differ + _____ = _____

offer + _____ = _____

refer + _____ = _____

confer + _____ = _____

prefer + _____ = _____

Adding suffixes

Finding fer words

■ Find the fourteen words containing the **fer** letter string hidden in this word search. Then place each word in the correct column in the table below.

c	d	p	i	n	f	e	r	r	e	d	g
o	e	d	r	f	j	a	k	i	i	n	i
n	r	p	i	e	c	g	q	f	i	n	n
f	e	h	i	f	f	s	f	r	f	b	f
e	f	c	o	n	f	e	r	e	n	c	e
r	f	t	v	a	r	e	r	e	m	s	r
r	o	e	k	e	f	r	r	e	e	x	e
i	r	f	n	s	i	e	u	i	n	r	n
n	p	c	n	n	o	f	b	y	n	c	c
g	e	a	g	j	i	e	l	a	u	g	e
m	r	e	c	n	e	r	e	f	e	r	b
t	c	o	n	f	e	r	r	e	d	f	j

fer stressed	fer unstressed