

-ment and -ness

Part A

A suffix is a letter or group of letters that is added to the end of a word and changes its meaning.

-ment and -ness are suffixes. Choose the correct suffix, -ment or -ness, for each word so that the sentence makes sense.

1. The **bright** _____ of the sun means we must wear sunglasses.
2. Dad made the **pay** _____ for my swimming lessons.
3. There is a lot of **ill** _____ at the infant school this week.
4. We are all in **agree** _____ that our class story should be 'The Day the Crayons Quit'.

Try writing a sentence for 'cleverness' here:

Can you think of any other words that the suffixes -ment or -ness can be added to? Write a list of them on a whiteboard and swap with a friend to see if they can add the correct suffix.

-ment and -ness

Part B

When adding a suffix, if a word with **more than one syllable** ends in -y with a consonant before it, the -y changes to an 'i'. Then you add the suffix.

happy + ness → happiness

merry + ment → _____

empty + ness → _____

sleepy + ness → _____

lonely + ness → _____

accompany + ment → _____

dry + ness → _____

★ Challenge Task ★

Can you choose one of these words to act out to your friend? Can they guess what it is? Swap over. Write your chosen word in a sentence on a whiteboard.

-ment and -ness Answers

Part A

1. The brightness of the sun means we must wear sunglasses.
2. Dad made the payment for my swimming lessons.
3. There is a lot of illness at the infant school this week.
4. We are all in agreement that our class story should be 'The Day the Crayons Quit'.

Can you think of any other words that the suffixes -ment or -ness can be added to? Write a list of them on a whiteboard and swap with a friend to see if they can add the correct suffix.

Children's own responses e.g. excitement, appointment, movement, greatness, sadness, darkness.

Part B

merry + ment → merriment

empty + ness → emptiness

sleepy + ness → sleepiness

lonely + ness → loneliness

accompany + ment → accompaniment

dry + ness → dryness

(There is now change to the root word 'dry' because it only has **one syllable**).

Challenge Task

Can you choose one of these words to act out to your friend? Can they guess what it is? Swap over. Write your chosen word in a sentence on a whiteboard.

Children's own response.