Grammar: Suffixes

A suffix is a letter or group of letters added to the end of a word to make a new word

advert + ise → advertise

Sometimes the spelling of the root word changes when a suffix is added.

happy + ly → happily

The 'y' in happy changes to 'i' when adding the suffix '-ly'

A. Add –ous or –ly to spell out the words correctly. Then write the words in full.

fame + ... → .....

angry + ... → .....

umour + ... → .....

scary + ... → .....

B. Complete the words in these sentences using –ate, -ise or -ify.

The Prime Minister did not author..... Mr Smith to write a book.

I origin..... from Australia.

The pupils will not..... the teacher when they have completed their work.

Bert and Shauna are scientists – they special..... in chemistry.

Travellers want to capital..... on cheap flights to Majorca.

The witness had to test..... to the truth before the judge.

ANSWERS

A. Add –ous or –ly to spell out the words correctly. Then write the words in full.

fame	+	ous + ly	→	famous or famously
angry	+	ly	→	angrily
humour	+	ous +ly	→	humorous or humorously
scary	+	ly	→	scarily

Top Tip

The English spelling of humour is with -our but when adding the suffix -ous we drop the 'u'. The English and American spellings for humorous are the same.

B. Complete the words in these sentences using –ate, -ise or -ify.

The Prime Minister did not authorise Mr Smith to write a book.

I originate from Australia.

The pupils will notify the teacher when they have completed their work.

Bert and Shauna are scientists – they specialise in chemistry.

Travellers want to capitalise on cheap flights to Majorca.

The witness had to testify to the truth before the judge.