Vocabulary 5

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

> **noun:** a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea
>
> **base word:** a word that is complete by itself
>
> **suffix:** a group of letters added to the end of a word to make a new word
>
> **noun suffixes:** suffixes added to base words to form nouns

HERE'S HOW

Step 1: Recognize words with the suffixes *-or, -er,* and *-ist.* These suffixes create nouns that refer to someone who does or practices something.

Suffix	Example	Word Meaning
-or	collector	one who collects
-er	teacher	one who teaches
-ist	Taoist	one who practices Taoism

Step 2: Recognize words with the suffixes *-ness, -ance* or *-ence, -ation, -hood, -cy,* and *-ce.* These suffixes create nouns that refer to a condition, quality, or state of being.

Suffix	Example	Word Meaning
-ness	sweetness	state of being sweet
-ence, -ance	existence	state of existing
-ation	determination	state of being determined
-hood	adulthood	state of being an adult
-cy	literacy	state of being literate
-ce	absence	state of being absent

Step 3: Use noun suffixes to help you determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.   Take the word apart. Identify the base word and the suffix. Think of other words with the same noun suffix. Ask yourself: What do these words mean? What might the suffix mean? Compare your guess with the dictionary definition.

NOTE: The spelling of a base word may change when you add a suffix.

EXAMPLE   determine + *-ation* = determination

literate + *-cy* = literacy