

Making Nouns from Other Words Worksheet

Turning a verb or a describing word into a thing: teach becomes teacher.

MASTERED BY

The -er ending (the person who does it) is usually usable by 4 to 5

ITEMS

36

Name: _____

Date: _____

English builds new words out of old ones by bolting an ending on. Add -er to a verb and you get the person who does it: teach, teacher. Add -ness to a describing word and you get the quality itself: happy, happiness. This is called derivation, and it is worth targeting directly, because a child who understands the pattern can work out a word they have never heard before - which is most of what reading comprehension asks of them.

What to expect: -er comes first and comes easily, often overgeneralised in a charming way: a child may call a nurse a "shotter" or a vacuum a "sucker". That is the pattern working correctly on a word that happens not to exist. The abstract endings are much later and much harder, because the resulting word names something you cannot point at.

The Person Who Does It (-er)

Fill in the blank with the word for the person who does each thing.

1. Someone who teaches is a ____.
2. Someone who paints is a ____.
3. Someone who bakes is a ____.
4. Someone who sings is a ____.
5. Someone who farms is a ____.
6. Someone who dances is a ____.
7. Someone who builds is a ____.
8. Someone who swims is a ____.
9. Someone who reads is a ____.
10. Someone who paints houses is a ____.

11. Someone who drives is a ____.

12. Someone who helps is a ____.

Turn It Around

Say what each person does.

13. A teacher is someone who ____.

14. A runner is someone who ____.

15. A climber is someone who ____.

16. A writer is someone who ____.

17. A player is someone who ____.

18. A catcher is someone who ____.

19. A speaker is someone who ____.

20. A worker is someone who ____.

Describing Word to Thing

These endings turn a describing word into the name of the feeling or quality. Fill in the blank.

21. When you are happy, you feel _____. (-ness)

22. When you are kind, you show _____. (-ness)

23. When you are sad, you feel _____. (-ness)

24. When you are dark, there is _____. (-ness)

25. When something is soft, you feel its _____. (-ness)

26. When you are brave, you show _____. (-ery or -ness)

27. When you are quiet, there is _____. (-ness)

28. When you are silly, everyone laughs at your _____. (-ness)

Verb to Thing

These endings turn an action into the name of the action. Fill in the blank.

29. When you move, you make a _____. (-ment)
30. When you pay, you make a _____. (-ment)
31. When you excite someone, there is _____. (-ment)
32. When you decide, you make a _____. (-ion)
33. When you celebrate, you have a _____. (-ion)
34. When you invite someone, you send an _____. (-ion)
35. When you build, you do _____. (-ing)
36. When you agree, you make an _____. (-ment)

Answer Key

The Person Who Does It (-er)

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. teacher | 7. builder |
| 2. painter | 8. swimmer |
| 3. baker | 9. reader |
| 4. singer | 10. painter |
| 5. farmer | 11. driver |
| 6. dancer | 12. helper |

Turn It Around

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 13. teaches | 17. plays |
| 14. runs | 18. catches |
| 15. climbs | 19. speaks |
| 16. writes | 20. works |

Describing Word to Thing

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 21. happiness | 25. softness |
| 22. kindness | 26. bravery |
| 23. sadness | 27. quietness |
| 24. darkness | 28. silliness |

Verb to Thing

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 29. movement | 33. celebration |
| 30. payment | 34. invitation |
| 31. excitement | 35. building |
| 32. decision | 36. agreement |