

English Suffixes: Meanings and Examples

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Yak Yacker · yakyacker.com

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5. Cut along the card borders.



-able
/əbəl/

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-ac
/æk/

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-acity
/'æsəti/

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-ocity
/'bʊsəti/

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-ade
/eɪd/

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-age
/ɪdʒ/

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-aholic
/ə'hɒlɪk/

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-oholic
/ə'hɒlɪk/

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-al
/əl/

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quality of
tenacity, audacity, capacity,
veracity, sagacity, vivacity,
perspicacity, rapacity, loquacity,
pugnacity

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pertaining to
maniac, cardiac, aphrodisiac,
hypochondriac, elegiac, celiac,
insomniac

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able to be
comfortable, readable, capable,
reliable, suitable, portable,
valuable, fashionable,
manageable, reasonable

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action or process
package, mileage, passage,
marriage, voyage, storage,
postage, carriage, damage,
language

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act, action or process,
product
lemonade, blockade, parade,
crusade, charade, stockade,
escapade, ambushade,
fusillade, marinade

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quality of
velocity, ferocity, atrocity,
reciprocity, viscosity

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relating to
cultural, natural, personal,
national, musical, physical,
mental, verbal, visual, social

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one with an obsession for
alcoholic, workoholic,
shopoholic, chocoholic,
golfoholic

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one with an obsession for
workaholic, shopaholic,
foodaholic, chocoholic,
golfaholic, spendaholic,
newsaholic, sexaholic,
rageaholic, dramaaholic

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-algia
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-an
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-ian
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-ance
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-ant
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-ar
/ər/

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-ard
/ərd/

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-arian
/ɛriən/

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-arium
/ɛriəm/

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relating to, belonging to;
relating to
musician, politician, physician,
electrician, magician, comedian,
historian, clinician, pediatrician,
beautician

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relating to, belonging to
American, human, European,
Christian, Mexican, African,
Italian, Canadian, Cuban, vegan

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pain
neuralgia, myalgia, nostalgia,
arthralgia, fibromyalgia,
cephalalgia, gastralgia,
odontalgia

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of or relating to, being; a
person who
linear, nuclear, scholar, solar,
lunar, polar, stellar, molecular,
particular, muscular

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a person who; inclined to,
tending to
assistant, important, significant,
brilliant, pleasant, attendant,
consonant, dominant, relevant,
president

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state or quality of
importance, appearance,
performance, assistance,
resistance, acceptance,
distance, instance, balance,
abundance

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a place for
aquarium, planetarium,
terrarium, solarium, sanitarium

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a person who
librarian, vegetarian,
humanitarian, utilitarian,
totalitarian

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a person who does an
action
coward, drunkard, laggard,
dullard, bastard

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-orium
/ˈɔːrɪəm/

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-ary
/ɛri/

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-ate
/eɪt/

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-ation
/ˈeɪʃən/

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-ative
/ətɪv/

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-cide
/saɪd/

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-cracy
/krəsi/

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-crat
/kræt/

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-cule
/kjuːl/

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state or quality of (adj.);
makes the word a verb
create, activate, generate,
operate, separate

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of or relating to
ordinary, necessary, primary,
secondary, stationary

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a place for
auditorium, crematorium,
moratorium, sanatorium,
emporium

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act of killing
homicide, suicide, genocide,
pesticide, infanticide

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tending to (adj.)
creative, informative, talkative,
imaginative, narrative

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action or process
information, education,
communication, creation,
organization

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diminutive (making
something small)
animalcule, molecule,
minuscule, granule, globule

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someone who has power
democrat, autocrat, aristocrat,
bureaucrat, theocrat

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rule, government, power
democracy, autocracy,
aristocracy, bureaucracy,
theocracy

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-cy
/si/

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-cycle
/saɪkəl/

yakyacker.com



-dom
/dəm/

yakyacker.com



-dox
/daks/

yakyacker.com



-ectomy
/'ektəmi/

yakyacker.com



-ed
/d/

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-ee
/i:/

yakyacker.com



-eer
/i:/

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-emia
/'imiə/

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condition of, state, realm
freedom, kingdom, wisdom,
boredom, stardom

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circle, wheel
bicycle, motorcycle, tricycle,
recycle, unicycle

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state, condition or quality
accuracy, privacy, efficiency,
agency, legacy

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past tense
walked, played, wanted,
needed, stopped

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surgical removal of
appendectomy, tonsillectomy,
hysterectomy, mastectomy,
vasectomy

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belief, praise
orthodox, paradox, heterodox,
doxology, unorthodox

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blood condition
anemia, leukemia,
hypoglycemia, hyperglycemia,
septicemia

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associated with/engaged in
engineer, volunteer, pioneer,
mountaineer, profiteer

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receiver, performer
employee, interviewee, payee,
trainee, nominee

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-ence
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-ency
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-ent
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-er
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-ern
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-escence
/ˈɛsəns/

yakyacker.com



-ese
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-esque
/ɛsk/

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condition or quality
efficiency, frequency, urgency,
currency, consistency

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state or condition, action
difference, independence,
dependence, existence,
occurrence

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makes the word a verb
harden, soften, widen, lengthen,
strengthen

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state or quality of
eastern, western, northern,
southern, midwestern,
northeastern, northwestern

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more; action or process; a
person who does an action
teacher, worker, player, faster,
harder, bigger, taller, speaker,
driver, smaller

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inclined to
performing/causing, or one
who performs/causes
different, present, excellent,
independent, confident

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in the style of
picturesque, grotesque,
statuesque, Romanesque,
burlesque

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relating to a place
Japanese, Chinese,
Portuguese, Vietnamese,
Burmese

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state or process
adolescence, obsolescence,
fluorescence, effervescence,
coalescence

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-ess
/ɪs/

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-est
/ɪst/

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-etic
/ɛtɪk/

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-ette
/ɛt/

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-ful
/fʊl/

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-fy
/faɪ/

yakyacker.com



-gam
/gæm/

yakyacker.com



-gamy
/gæmi/

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-gon
/gɑn/

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relating to (makes the word
an adj.)
poetic, aesthetic, energetic,
athletic, sympathetic

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most
biggest, smallest, tallest, fastest,
smartest

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female
princess, actress, waitress,
hostess, lioness

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make, cause (makes the
word a verb)
simplify, beautify, classify,
justify, modify

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full of
helpful, beautiful, wonderful,
grateful, playful

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diminutive (makes
something smaller)
cigarette, kitchenette, cassette,
rosette, statuette

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angle
polygon, hexagon, pentagon,
octagon, decagon

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marriage, union
monogamy, polygamy, bigamy,
exogamy, endogamy

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marriage, union
polygam, monogam, endogam,
exogam, heterogam

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-gonic
/ganɪk/

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-hood
/hʊd/

yakyacker.com



-ial
/iəl/

yakyacker.com



-iasis
/aɪəʊsɪs/

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-iatric
/aɪəʊtɪrɪk/

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-ible
/əbəl/

yakyacker.com



-ic
/ɪk/

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-ical
/ɪkəl/

yakyacker.com



-ile
/aɪl/

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relating to
industrial, commercial, financial,
official, special

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state, condition, or quality
childhood, motherhood,
fatherhood, brotherhood,
neighborhood

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angle
polygonic, hexagonic,
pentagonic, octagonic,
decagonic

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able to be
possible, visible, audible,
flexible, edible

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healing practice
psychiatric, pediatric, geriatric,
podiatric, bariatric

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diseased condition
psoriasis, elephantiasis,
amoebiasis, giardiasis,
candidiasis

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relating to, capable of
fragile, mobile, fertile, sterile,
tactile, tensile, volatile, versatile,
ductile, juvenile

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relating to, characterized by
historical, practical, typical,
economical, musical, logical,
magical, surgical, electrical,
philosophical

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relating to, characterized by
poetic, heroic, acidic, basic,
chronic, classic, ceramic, comic,
organic, dramatic

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-ine
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-ion
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-ious
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-ish
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-ism
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yakyacker.com



-ist
/ɪst/

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-ite
/aɪt/

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materials; action or process
running, building, thinking,
reading, writing, feeling,
painting, baking, acting, living

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relating to
canine, feline, bovine, asinine,
divine, feminine, masculine,
crystalline, pristine, saline

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in what manner
happily, merrily, easily, lazily,
cheekily, clumsily, steadily,
hastily, greedily, luckily

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relating to, characteristic
childish, foolish, selfish, stylish,
bookish, sheepish, devilish,
pinkish, grayish, tallish

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having the qualities of, full of
curious, serious, obvious,
precious, mysterious, glorious,
anxious, cautious, notorious,
various

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action or process
action, nation, fiction, station,
emotion, opinion, vision,
session, mission, tension

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resident of, follower, product
of
socialite, Israelite, Luddite,
Moabite, anchorite, stalactite,
stalagmite, appetite, dynamite,
graphite

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a person, one who does an
action
artist, scientist, pianist, dentist,
journalist, linguist, pharmacist,
specialist, psychologist,
economist

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state or quality
capitalism, criticism, racism,
sexism, socialism, heroism,
tourism, feminism, modernism,
realism

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-itis
/aɪtɪs/

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-ity
/ɪti/

yakyacker.com



-ive
/ɪv/

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-ization
/ɪˈzeɪʃən/

yakyacker.com



-ize
/aɪz/

yakyacker.com



-less
/lɪs/

yakyacker.com



-let
/lɪt/

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-like
/laɪk/

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-ling
/lɪŋ/

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inclined to; quality of; that
which
active, creative, positive,
negative, relative, effective,
attractive, impressive,
expensive, collective

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state, condition, or quality
ability, activity, stability, security,
identity, dignity, purity, unity,
diversity, equality

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inflammation, preoccupation
tonsillitis, arthritis, appendicitis,
bronchitis, hepatitis, dermatitis,
meningitis, laryngitis, tendinitis,
diverticulitis

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without
hopeless, useless, careless,
fearless, helpless, endless,
homeless, countless, powerless,
tireless

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cause, treat, become
realize, recognize, organize,
authorize, utilize, characterize,
specialize, modernize, globalize,
civilize

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act or process of making
organization, authorization,
realization, globalization,
civilization, utilization,
specialization, industrialization,
modernization, characterization

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younger or inferior
duckling, fledgling, hatchling,
yearling, weakling, underling,
foundling, princeling, wolfling,
changeling

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resembling, characteristic
childlike, lifelike, warlike,
birdlike, godlike, homelike,
catlike, doglike, businesslike,
ladylike

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version of
booklet, pamphlet, leaflet,
ringlet, piglet, droplet, starlet,
wristlet, anklet, armlet

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-loger
/lɒdʒər/

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-logist
/lɒdʒɪst/

yakyacker.com



-log
/lɒ:g/

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-ly
/li/

yakyacker.com



-ment
/mənt/

yakyacker.com



-ness
/nis/

yakyacker.com



-oid
/ɔɪd/

yakyacker.com



-ology
/ˈɔ:lədʒi/

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-oma
/oʊmə/

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speech

dialogue, monologue,
travelogue, prologue, epilogue,
analogue, catalogue, decalogue

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one who does

biologist, geologist,
psychologist, sociologist,
archaeologist, anthropologist,
ecologist, meteorologist,
dermatologist, cardiologist

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one who does

astrologer, geologer,
mineralogier, chronologer,
cosmologer

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**state or quality (makes a
noun)**

happiness, sadness, kindness,
darkness, goodness, greatness,
loneliness, weakness,
brightness, fairness

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action, result

agreement, movement,
development, achievement,
environment, government,
establishment, announcement,
improvement, management

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in what manner

quickly, slowly, happily, sadly,
quietly, simply, carefully,
beautifully, easily, finally

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tumor, swelling

carcinoma, melanoma,
sarcoma, lymphoma, glioma,
blastoma, adenoma, fibroma,
hepatoma, chondroma

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study of, science of

biology, geology, psychology,
sociology, archaeology,
anthropology, ecology,
meteorology, dermatology,
cardiology

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resembling

humanoid, android, asteroid,
spheroid, cuboid, ellipsoid,
planetoid, celluloid, factoid,
steroid

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-onym
/ənim/

yakyacker.com



-opia
/oupiə/

yakyacker.com



-opsy
/apsi/

yakyacker.com



-or
/ər/

yakyacker.com



-ory
/ɔri/

yakyacker.com



-osis
/ouʒis/

yakyacker.com



-ostomy
/astəmi/

yakyacker.com



-otomy
/atəmi/

yakyacker.com



-ous
/əs/

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examination
biopsy, autopsy, necropsy,
colposcopy, endoscopy

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eye defect
myopia, hyperopia, presbyopia,
amblyopia, diplopia

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name, word
acronym, antonym, synonym,
homonym, pseudonym,
metonym, toponym, eponym,
cryptonym

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process, diseased condition
halitosis, tuberculosis,
osteoporosis, thrombosis,
neurosis, psychosis, sclerosis,
metamorphosis, cyanosis,
leukocytosis

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relating to
advisory, compulsory,
explanatory, mandatory,
sensory, circulatory,
introductory, preparatory,
narrative, directory

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a person who
actor, doctor, director,
professor, editor, inventor,
translator, governor, sailor,
vendor

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full of
dangerous, famous, nervous,
serious, curious, glorious,
jealous, tremendous, cautious,
various

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surgical
tracheotomy, lobotomy,
episiotomy, craniotomy,
laparotomy, thoracotomy,
osteotomy, myringotomy,
tenotomy

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surgical
colostomy, ileostomy,
tracheostomy, gastrostomy,
jejunostomy, nephrostomy,
urostomy, cecostomy,
sigmoidostomy

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-path
/pæθ/

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-pathy
/pæθi/

yakyacker.com



-phile
/faɪl/

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-phobia
/fəʊbiə/

yakyacker.com



-phone
/fəʊn/

yakyacker.com



-phyte
/faɪt/

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-plegia
pli:dʒə

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-plegic
pli:dʒɪk

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-pnea
ni:ə

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one who loves
audiophile, bibliophile, cinephile,
francophile, Anglophile,
technophile, zoophile,
pedophile, logophile

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feeling, diseased
sympathy, empathy, antipathy,
apathy, telepathy, homeopathy,
osteopathy, neuropathy,
psychopathy, sociopathy

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one who engages in
psychopath, sociopath, empath,
telepath, osteopath, homeopath,
naturopath, allopath, neuropath

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plant, to grow
epiphyte, hydrophyte,
xerophyte, mesophyte,
halophyte, saprophyte,
neophyte, lithophyte, heliophyte

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sound
telephone, microphone,
headphone, earphone,
cellphone, smartphone,
megaphone, homophone,
xylophone, francophone

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abnormal fear of
claustrophobia, agoraphobia,
arachnophobia, acrophobia,
hydrophobia, nyctophobia,
xenophobia, homophobia,
technophobia, coulrophobia

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air, spirit
apnea, dyspnea, hyperpnea,
hypopnea, orthopnea

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one who is paralyzed
paraplegic, quadriplegic,
hemiplegic, monoplegic, diplegic

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paralysis
paraplegia, quadriplegia,
hemiplegia, monoplegia,
diplegia

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-scopy
skəpi

yakyacker.com



-scope
skəʊp

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-scribe
skraɪb

yakyacker.com



-script
skript

yakyacker.com



-sect
sekt

yakyacker.com



-ship
ʃɪp

yakyacker.com



-sion
ʒən

yakyacker.com



-some
səm

yakyacker.com



-sophy
sə:fi

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to write
describe, prescribe, subscribe,
transcribe, proscribe

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visual exam
microscope, telescope,
endoscope, stethoscope,
bronchoscope

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visual exam
endoscopy, colonoscopy,
bronchoscopy, laparoscopy,
microscopy

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state or condition of, skill of
friendship, leadership,
citizenship, ownership,
relationship

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to cut
dissect, intersect, bisect, trisect,
vivisect

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to write
manuscript, transcript,
postscript, conscript, description

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wisdom, knowledge
philosophy, theosophy,
anthroposophy, misosophy,
pansophy

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characterized by, group of
handsome, troublesome,
lonesome, wholesome,
fearsome

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state or quality
vision, revision, division,
decision, collision

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-sophic
sa:fɪk

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-th
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-tion
ʃən

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-tome
/təʊm/

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-tomy
/təmi/

yakyacker.com



-trophy
/trəfi/

yakyacker.com



-tude
/tʊd/

yakyacker.com



-ty
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-ular
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state or quality
action, nation, station,
education, information

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state or quality
growth, strength, depth, width,
length

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wisdom, knowledge
philosophic, theosophic,
anthroposophic, misosophic,
pansophic

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nourishment, growth
atrophy, hypertrophy, dystrophy,
eutrophy, oligotrophy

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to cut
lobotomy, tracheotomy,
gastrotomy, craniotomy,
hysterotomy

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to cut
microtome, dermatome,
osteotome, lobotome,
craniotome

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relating to or resembling
particular, circular, granular,
cellular, tubular, vascular,
muscular

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state, condition or quality
safety, beauty, honesty, liberty,
equality, unity, clarity, severity

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state, condition or quality
attitude, gratitude, solitude,
altitude, magnitude, multitude,
fortitude

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-uous
/juəs/

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-ure
/ər/

yakyacker.com



-ward
/wərd/

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-ware
/wɛr/

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-wise
/waɪz/

yakyacker.com



-y
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specifies direction
forward, backward, upward,
downward, inward, outward,
toward, northward

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action, condition
pressure, pleasure, treasure,
measure, closure, seizure,
leisure, mixture

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state or quality of
continuous, sinuous, arduous,
strenuous, ambiguous,
conspicuous

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made up of, characterized
happy, funny, sunny, rainy,
snowy, grassy, messy, dirty,
sticky, tasty

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in what manner or direction
clockwise, counterclockwise,
likewise, otherwise, edgewise,
lengthwise, stepwise

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**things of the same type or
material**
software, hardware,
kitchenware, glassware,
silverware, tableware,
earthenware

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