



Mini Lesson 007 - Suffixes to talk about people

In English, suffixes like "-er" and "-ist" are commonly added to verbs or nouns to describe a person who performs a specific action or occupies a certain role. These suffixes help us turn simple words into names for various professions, hobbies, or identities.

- **-er** is typically added to verbs to indicate someone who performs the action:

- **run -> runner**
- **build -> builder**
- **write -> writer**
- **farm -> farmer**
- **swim -> swimmer**

- **-ist** is often added to nouns, especially in fields like arts, sciences, or professions, to describe someone associated with that field:

- **biology -> biologist**
- **journal -> journalist**
- **flute -> flutist**
- **tour -> tourist**
- **chemistry -> chemist**

Note: While there are patterns, there isn't a strict rule for when to use "-er" versus "-ist." The best approach is to learn the specific word forms as you encounter them.



Let's practice!

Add the correct suffix to each word to form the term for the person being described.

1. She dreams of becoming a _____ (write).
2. The _____ (journal) asked tough questions during the interview.
3. He's a skilled _____ (build) with over 20 years of experience.
4. The _____ (tour) admired the historic architecture.
5. Our new English _____ (teach) is very enthusiastic.
6. The _____ (chemistry) conducted the experiment carefully.
7. He's training to be a professional _____ (swim).
8. The _____ (biology) discovered a new species of plant.
9. She's a talented _____ (paint) with her work featured in galleries.
10. The _____ (farm) harvested the crops early this year.

Answers:

1. She dreams of becoming a **writer**.
2. The **journalist** asked tough questions during the interview.
3. He's a skilled **builder** with over 20 years of experience.
4. The **tourist** admired the historic architecture.
5. Our new English **teacher** is very enthusiastic.
6. The **chemist** conducted the experiment carefully.
7. He's training to be a professional **swimmer**.
8. The **biologist** discovered a new species of plant.
9. She's a talented **painter** with her work featured in galleries.
10. The **farmer** harvested the crops early this year.