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
80

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 writes is a ____. 

11. Someone who drives is a ____. 

12. Someone who helps is a ____. 

The Person Who Does It (-er): Round 2

Someone who does it gets -er or -or on the end.

13. Someone who paints is a ____. 

14. Someone who sings is a ____. 

15. Someone who farms is a ____. 

16. Someone who runs is a ____. 

17. Someone who builds is a ____. 

18. Someone who swims is a ____. 

19. Someone who cleans is a ____. 

20 Someone who jumps is a ____.



21 Someone who dances is a ____.



22 Someone who bakes bread is a ____.



The Person Who Does It (-er): Round 3

Someone who does it gets -er or -or on the end.

23 Someone who teaches swimming is a ____.



24 Someone who catches the ball is a ____.



25 Someone who plays the drum is a ____.



26 Someone who sails is a ____.



27 Someone who rides a horse is a ____.



28 Someone who throws the ball is a ____.



29 Someone who reads a lot is a ____.



30 Someone who climbs is a ____.



31 Someone who walks the dog is a ____.



32 Someone who cooks is a ____.



Turn It Around

Say what each person does.

33 A teacher is someone who ____.



34 A runner is someone who ____.



35 A climber is someone who ____.



36 A writer is someone who ____.



37 A player is someone who ____.



38 A catcher is someone who ____.



39 A speaker is someone who ____.



40 A worker is someone who ____.



Turn It Around: Round 2

Take the -er off and say what that person does.

41 A painter is someone who ____.



42 A singer is someone who ____.



43 A farmer is someone who ____.



44 A builder is someone who ____.



45 A swimmer is someone who ____.



46 A driver is someone who ____.



47 A baker is someone who ____.



48 A reader is someone who ____.



Turn It Around: Round 3

Take the -er off and say what that person does.

49 A runner is someone who ____.



50 A drummer is someone who ____.



51 A cleaner is someone who ____.



52 A rider is someone who ____.



53 A climber is someone who ____.



54 A thrower is someone who ____.



55 A walker is someone who ____.



56 A helper 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.

57 When you are happy, you have a feeling of ____. (-ness)



58 When you share your cookie, you show ____. (-ness)



59 When you are sad, you have a feeling of ____. (-ness)



60 When the room has no light, there is ____. (-ness)



61 When something is soft, you feel its ____. (-ness)



62 When you climb the tall ladder, you show ____. (-ery or -ness)



63 When something is sweet, you taste its ____. (-ness)



64 When you wear a funny hat, everyone enjoys your ____. (-ness)



Describing Word to Thing: Round 2

Turn the describing word into the name of the feeling.

65 When you are kind, you show ____. (-ness)



66 When you are sad, you have a feeling of ____. (-ness)



67 When something is dark, there is ____. (-ness)



68 When you are sick, you have a ____. (-ness)



69 When something is soft, you feel its ____. (-ness)



70 When you are polite, you show ____. (-ness)

71 When you are bold, you show ____. (-ness)



72 When something is thick, you measure its ____. (-ness)



Describing Word to Thing: Round 3

Turn the describing word into the name of the feeling.

73 When you are brave, you show ____. (-ry)



74 When something is clean, you notice its ____. (-liness)



75 When you are lonely, you have a feeling of ____. (-ness)

76 When a road is wet, there is ____. (-ness)



77 When you are silly, you show ____. (-ness)



78 When you are gentle, you show ____. (-ness)



79 When the cup is full, you see its ____. (-ness)



80 When something is loud, you hear its ____. (-ness)



Answer Key

The Person Who Does It (-er)

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

The Person Who Does It (-er): Round 2

13. painter
14. singer
15. farmer
16. runner
17. builder
18. swimmer
19. cleaner
20. jumper
21. dancer
22. baker

The Person Who Does It (-er): Round 3

23. teacher
24. catcher
25. drummer
26. sailor
27. rider
28. thrower
29. reader
30. climber
31. walker
32. cook

Turn It Around

33. teaches
34. runs
35. climbs
36. writes
37. plays
38. catches
39. speaks
40. works

Turn It Around: Round 2

41. paints
42. sings
43. farms
44. builds
45. swims
46. drives
47. bakes
48. reads

Turn It Around: Round 3

49. runs
50. drums
51. cleans
52. rides

53. climbs
54. throws
55. walks
56. helps

Describing Word to Thing

57. happiness
58. kindness
59. sadness
60. darkness
61. softness
62. bravery
63. sweetness
64. silliness

Describing Word to Thing: Round 2

65. kindness
66. sadness
67. darkness
68. sickness
69. softness
70. politeness
71. boldness
72. thickness

Describing Word to Thing: Round 3

73. bravery
74. cleanliness
75. loneliness
76. wetness
77. silliness
78. gentleness
79. fullness
80. loudness