
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute Vocabulary

Jobs suffixes



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NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Neil

Hi!

Sophie

Hello!

Neil

..and welcome to 6 Minute Vocabulary. My name is Neil, and I'm one of the presenters today.

Sophie

And I'm Sophie, and I'm the other presenter. Welcome to the show!

Neil

Did you hear that word - **presenter**? Today we're going to be talking about jobs, and the different kinds of English words for different jobs. Like **presenter**, for example.

Sophie

We'll look at some of the different ways that words for jobs can end, like the 'er' at the end of **presenter**. These are called suffixes.

Neil

As usual, we'll be giving you a quiz to see how much you can remember...

Sophie

And we'll also bring you a top tip to help you learn vocabulary.

Neil

But first, let's listen to Anna. She's going to tell us about the different jobs she's had in her life so far.

Sophie

While you listen, think about this question: what is Anna's job now?

INSERT

Anna

When I was a little girl, I always wanted to be a **teacher**. So I spent years training as a **teacher**, and then I got a job in a school... and I hated it! After a few months I quit. I worked for a while as a **librarian**, but I didn't really like that either. Finally I started writing for a small website. Now I work as a **journalist**, writing for newspapers and magazines.

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Sophie

So, that was Anna, talking about all the jobs she's done. And we asked: what's Anna's job now?

Neil

Anna is a **journalist** now. She writes for newspapers and magazines.

Sophie

Well done if you got that right. And another question: Did you catch what Anna's first job was?

Neil

She was a **teacher**. Let's listen again...

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Anna

When I was a little girl, I always wanted to be a **teacher**. So I spent years training as a **teacher**,...

Neil

Now, a lot of English words for jobs end with the sound –er, like **presenter** or **teacher**.

Sophie

Yes, and there are two ways to spell the suffix –er in job names. Sometimes this is spelled e-r, in words like **presenter** or **teacher**. Or sometimes it's spelled o-r: for example, **actor** or **translator**.

Neil

So, a **teacher** teaches students, an **actor** acts in a film, a **translator** translates from one language to another, a **train driver** drives a train. You're an **actor** aren't you Sophie?

Sophie

Yes, I am, Neil. But because I'm female you can also say I'm an **actress**. So, there are lots of jobs that end with that e-r suffix. But now let's look at a different suffix. Can you remember what Anna's next job was, after she quit teaching? Let's listen and check.

INSERT 1 CLIP 2

Anna

After a few months I quit. I worked for a while as a **librarian**, but I didn't really like that either.

Neil

Next, Anna worked as a **librarian** – that's someone who works in a library.

Sophie

Another suffix which we often find at the end of a word for a job is –ian, spelled i-a-n. Sometimes it's pronounced 'shun'. For example, if you've got a problem with your eyes, you might need to go to an **optician**.

Neil

And someone who works in politics is a **politician**. Ever thought of being a politician, Sophie?

Sophie

I can't say I have, Neil. OK, now let's talk about one more suffix. Do you remember what Anna does now? She's a **journalist**.

Neil

There are also quite a lot of words for jobs in English which end in –ist, spelled i-s-t.

Sophie

The person who greets you in an office or a hotel is a **receptionist**...

Neil

And a person who looks after your teeth is a **dentist**.

IDENT

You're listening to BBC Learning English.

Sophie

And we're talking about jobs suffixes.

Neil

Ok. Now it's quiz time! We've got three questions for you. First, if someone translates from one language to another, are they a) a translartist b) a translator or c) a translatician?

Sophie

And the answer is, b) a translator. Well done if you got that right. Second question: which job ends with the letters –o-r? Is it a) actor; b) teacher or c) presenter?

Neil

And the answer is **actor**. **Teacher** and **presenter** end with –e-r. Well done if you got both of those questions right. It's almost time for the end of the show. But before we go, there's just time for a top tip for learning vocabulary.

Sophie

When you record a new word, don't just write the word and the translation – try drawing a picture in your notebook too!

Neil

Yes. Drawing a picture can help you remember the word better.

Sophie

There's more about this at bbclearningenglish.com. Join us again soon for more 6 Minute Vocabulary.

Both

Bye!

Vocabulary points to take away

Job names ending in **-er**:

presenter
teacher
train driver

Job names ending in **-or** :

actor (some people say **actress** for female actors)
translator

Job names ending in **-ian**

librarian
politician
optician

Job names ending in **-ist**:

journalist
receptionist
dentist