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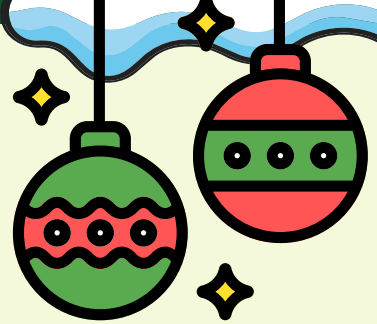





babe

"infant"

In the Christian Nativity story, Jesus is often described as a **babe**, which is an older word for a **baby**.

The word **babe** has been used in English for hundreds of years, but language experts aren't sure where it came from.

Some think it might have developed from the sounds that babies make when they first begin to communicate, such as **ba ba**!

These sounds are some of the easiest for babies to produce because they simply involve bringing their lips together and opening them again.







Over time, the word **babe** became a familiar word for a very young child, and we still use the related word **baby** today!

Can you think of any other words that sound like the noises babies might make?



baby

"state of being an infant"



babe + **y**





"infant" "state, condition or quality"

Let's read some sentences containing base **babe** and stem **baby**.

In the Nativity story, Mary gently cradled the newborn **babe** in her arms.

The **baby** smiled as her mother gently rocked her to sleep.

The **baby** giggled happily as her older sister played peekaboo.

Can you use either word in a sentence to mean an "infant"?



babe

"infant"

What suffixing rules do we need to think about when we build words using base **babe** and stem **baby**?

babe + **y** = _____

"infant" "state, condition or quality"

babe + **y** + **ed** = _____

"infant" "state, condition or quality" "past simple tense verbs or past participles"

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babe

"infant"

How did you do?
Why have we needed to make these changes?



babe + y = baby

"infant" "state, condition or quality"



babe + y^{i} + ed = babied

"infant" "state, condition or quality" "past simple tense verbs or past participles"

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Use the matrix to build different words using base **babe**.
Talk about your new words with your partner.

babe "infant"	**y** state, condition or quality	**ed** past simple tense verbs or past participles	
		2+ **es** more than one or present simple tense	
		hood state of being or belonging to a group	
		ing continuing, or present participles	
		ish make, do or cause	
		sit rest in a seated position or stay in one place	**er** one who or something that
			2+ **s** more than one or present simple tense
			ing continuing, or present participles
			2+ **s** more than one or present simple tense

This matrix is really special, because there are a few words you can build where you will need to apply every suffixing rule in one word sum!

Can you find any?

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