

The image features a magnifying glass with a light-colored wooden handle on the left side. The lens of the magnifying glass is positioned over the text, which is centered within the lens's circular field of view. The background is a dark, textured green, and the lens itself has a lighter green, slightly blurred appearance, suggesting a focus on the text.

WORD INTELLIGENCE

HOW TO INVESTIGATE AND UNDERSTAND NEW WORDS

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CONTEXT CLUES

Using context clues and your knowledge of word parts, select one meaning for each **word in bold**. Underline the word or words that helped you figure out the meaning.

Soon the passage that had been sloping down began to go up again, and after a while it climbed **steeply**. That slowed Bilbo down. (*The Hobbit*, 87)

- a. joyfully in b. sharply up c. flatly through

“Come teach me the sword-fighting. You must know the art.” . . .

Taran brought up his poker. While Coll shouted instructions, they set to parrying and thrusting, with much banging, clanking, and commotion. For a moment Taran was sure he had the better of Coll, but the old man spun away with amazing lightness of foot. Now it was Taran who strove **desperately** to ward off Coll’s blows. (Lloyd Alexander, *The Book of Three*, 10-11)

- a. in an extreme, urgent way b. in a soft quiet way c. in a funny, joking way

DICTIONARY SKILLS

Write the base word for each word below. (Base words are explained on pages 4 and 8.)

spontaneously base word: _____

suddenly base word: _____

The word *tender*, the base word of *tenderly*, has several meanings. Find *tender* in your dictionary, and write the meaning that will help explain *tenderly* in the sample sentence.

SAMPLE SENTENCE: The baby’s mother **tenderly** covered him with the blanket and kissed his forehead.

tender: _____

Combine the meaning of *tender* and the meaning of the suffix *-ly* to explain *tenderly* in the sample sentence.

tenderly: _____

LESSON 2

THE SUFFIX *-LY*

The suffix *-LY* means **IN THAT WAY**.

If you do something ***SLOWLY***, you do it **IN A SLOW WAY**.

MORE EXAMPLES:

silently *adv.* In a silent way, without making noise.

sloppily *adv.* In a sloppy, messy way.

courageously *adv.* In a courageous way, bravely.

gradually *adv.* In a way that is gradual, little by little.

ingeniously *adv.* In a way that is ingenious, creatively, cleverly.

WORD ANALYSIS

Explain each word, by replacing the suffix *-ly* with its meaning.

FOR EXAMPLE:

sadly: _____ in a sad way _____

jokingly: _____

carefully: _____

rigidly: _____

MORE ABOUT THE DICTIONARY

Suffixes

Dictionaries list suffixes alphabetically as entries. A hyphen is shown before a suffix.

-ly *suffix* In a specified manner; in the manner of: *gradually*


For some words you must look up the base word and the suffix separately to determine the meaning of the word.

The bold words in the following phrases all have the suffix *-less*:

a **windowless** room

a **moonless** night

a **childless** couple

 Use your dictionary to find the definition of *-less* that helps explain the bold words. Note: look for the hyphen; look for the suffix *-less*, not the word *less*.

-less: _____

Use the definition of *-less* to explain each word.

windowless: _____

moonless: _____

childless: _____