Ending Detectives

Does the ending change a word's form or make a new word?

5.RF.3.c "Understand and apply knowledge of morphological patterns, including inflectional endings, derivational suffixes, and compound words, to decode and spell words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

INFLECTIONAL ENDING

An inflectional ending changes a word's form to show something like past time or more than one. The word keeps its basic meaning.

dogs

DERIVATIONAL SUFFIX

A derivational suffix makes a new word with a different meaning. It may also change the word's job in a sentence.

softness

1 SORT

8 items

Circle a category for each word, then pick one word from each category and explain how its ending helped you decide.

1.	kindness	INFLECTION	DERIVATION
2.	kittens	INFLECTION	DERIVATION
3.	jumped	INFLECTION	DERIVATION
4.	helpful	INFLECTION	DERIVATION
5.	careless	INFLECTION	DERIVATION
6.	boxes	INFLECTION	DERIVATION
7.	skipped	INFLECTION	DERIVATION
8.	birds	INFLECTION	DERIVATION

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new word with an inflectional ending and one new word with a derivational suffix; underline the ending or suffix in each.

INFLECTION _____

DERIVATION _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one base word that can take both kinds of endings; write both new words and explain what each ending does.

ANSWER KEY # Ending Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.RF.3.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	kindness	**DERIVATION**	Kind + ness forms a noun meaning the quality of being kind.
2	kittens	**INFLECTION**	Kitten + s shows more than one kitten.
3	jumped	**INFLECTION**	Jump + ed shows a past action.
4	helpful	**DERIVATION**	Help + ful forms a word meaning able or willing to help.
5	careless	**DERIVATION**	Care + less forms a word meaning without care.
6	boxes	**INFLECTION**	Box + es shows more than one box.
7	skipped	**INFLECTION**	Skip + ed shows a past action; the final p is doubled.
8	birds	**INFLECTION**	Bird + s shows more than one bird.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **INFLECTION**: wish<u>ed</u>
- **DERIVATION**: bright<u>ness</u>

Challenge: Base word: play. Played shows a past action. Playful means full of play.

For Part 2, a student could explain that kittens has an inflectional ending because -s shows more than one, while careless has a derivational suffix because -less makes a word meaning without care.