

# What Is an Inflected Form?

An **inflected form** is a version of a base word that is different from the main entry word. When an ending such as *-s*, *-es*, *-ed*, *-ing*, *-er*, or *-est* is added to a base word, it becomes an inflected form. Often, dictionaries include an inflected form only if there is a spelling change when the ending is added.

Inflected forms of verbs have *-ed*, *-ing*, and *-s* or *-es* endings.

Main entry words	track	drop
<i>-ed</i>	tracked	dropped
<i>-ing</i>	tracking	dropping
<i>-s</i> or <i>-es</i>	tracks	drops

Inflected forms of nouns have *-s* or *-es* endings.

Main entry words	book	couch
<i>-s</i> or <i>-es</i>	books	couches

Inflected forms of adjectives have *-er* and *-est* endings.

Main entry words	fast	simple
<i>-er</i>	faster	simpler
<i>-est</i>	fastest	simplest

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