1. Use –est when comparing three or more things.
   pretty: prettiest  old: oldest  smart: smartest  fast: fastest
   art: artist  science: scientist  anthropology: anthropologist
3. Use –an for the suffix sound /n/ that indicates a person, nationality, or religion.
   American, Alaskan, Mexican, republican, Lutheran
4. Use –ian when the word sounds like /eyun/.
   Indian, Cambodian, Rastafarian
5. Use –ous when the word is an adjective.
   dangerous, courageous, famous
6. Use –us when the word is a noun.
   sinus, ruckus
7. Use –ize as the suffix to add to whole words or to root words.
   customize, idolize, modernize, criticize
8. “–cise” is not a suffix and cannot stand alone. It must be used with a prefix and a suffix.
   incised, incisor, excised
9. Use –er as a suffix for one-syllable words when you mean a person who does.
   jumper, runner, swimmer, teacher
10. Usually use –or for two or more syllable words when you mean a person or thing that does.
    editor, professor, compactor
    (Exceptions include: actor, doctor, hairdresser)
11. Use –ar to form an adjective.
    angular, regular, popular
12. Usually use the suffix –able when you are adding to an entire word and the new word means “able to.”
    workable, doable, attainable, manageable
13. Usually use the suffix –able when the root ends in the “hard” sound of c or g.
    despicable
14. When adding to a root, use the suffix –ible.
    visible, edible, credible
15. Usually use the suffix –ible when the root ends in the “soft” sound of c or g.
forcible, legible, crucible

16. The following suffixes mean “people who do:”
   -ist: pianist
   -ee: employee
   -cian: magician
   -eer: engineer
   -ier: brigadier
   -er: swimmer
   -or: actor
   -ess: princess (female)

17. Use wr as opposed to r for words that imply the meaning “twist.”
   wrench, wrestle, wrap, wreck, wrought, write, wrong, wrist, wry

18. These are generalities. Exceptions are everywhere.