The suffix -ee

Do you remember what the word suffix means?

▶ The *suffix* is part of the word that's added onto the end, like the *-ish* in *foolish*.

Read the following sentences. What do you notice about the underlined verbs?

1. The teacher **examined** his student in two main areas; speaking and listening.
2. We **interviewed** dozens of applicants, and have narrowed the job search down to two.
3. I'm trying to **train** teachers to use the touch screens.
4. We've **employed** a market researcher to find out what people really want from a cable TV system

Transitive Verbs

▶ All the underlined verbs in the pervious slide are transitive verbs which means that they are followed by an object.

▶ Can you identify the object of each underlined verb?

The suffix –ee can be added to some **transitive verbs**

1. It forms words meaning a person or thing that is the <u>object</u> of that <u>verb</u> (i.e., to whom or to which an action is done). synonym, antonym ▲

Synonym: <u>-ed</u>

Antonym: <u>-er</u>

1. <u>examine</u> + **-ee** → <u>examinee</u>   *(the student is the examinee)*

2. <u>interview</u> + **-ee** → <u>interviewee</u> *(dozens of applicants are the interviewees)*

3. <u>train</u> + **-ee** → <u>trainee</u> *(teachers are the trainees)*

4. *employ* + *-ee* → *employee (The market researcher is the employee)*

More examples!

- **advisee – someone who receives advice**

- **slayee – someone who is killed (like the vampires)**

- **Payee ---a person who money is paid to or should be paid to**

However, less commonly, when the suffix is added to some verbs, they become nouns that have the meaning of a performer.

Escape (intransitive)----escapee

Attend (transitive)—attendee

Return (intransitive)---returnee

Lease (transitive)----lessee

Retire (intransitive)----retiree

Stand (intransitive)___standee

Confer (intransitive)------conferee

Irregularly added to nouns to mean a person somehow associated with the object

barge + *-ee* → *bargee*

Refuge+ -ee →Refugee

Trust+ -ee →trustee