

The -ling suffix vocabulary

Changeling – In folklore, a fairy child secretly exchanged for a human baby.

Darling – A beloved person; originally from “dear.”

Duckling – A baby duck.

Earthling – A human being, often used in science fiction by aliens to describe people from Earth.

Fledgling – A young bird learning to fly; also used metaphorically for a beginner in any field.

Foundling – An abandoned infant discovered and cared for by others.

Gosling – A baby goose; also the surname of actor Ryan Gosling.

Hireling – A person employed for wages, often with the negative idea of lacking loyalty or higher purpose.

Leapling – A person born on February 29 in a leap year.

Nestling – A young bird still confined to the nest.

Princeling – A minor prince, or by extension the privileged child of a powerful leader.

Puffling – A baby puffin.

Sapling – A young tree.

Sibling – A brother or sister; a relative who shares the same parents.

Starling – A bird, its name linked to the star-like shape of its silhouette or plumage.

Sterling – Originally silver coins stamped with a star (“little star”), later the British currency.

Storkling – A young stork.

Suckling – A young mammal still nourished by its mother’s milk.

Underling – A subordinate or inferior person, often used dismissively.

Weakling – A frail or feeble person, usually said as an insult.

Wildling – A fictional term popularized in Game of Thrones for outsider tribes living beyond the Wall.

Yearling – An animal, especially a horse, that is one year old.