

Word formation 1

Words can be formed by adding a prefix to the beginning or a suffix to the end. There are many prefixes and suffixes included in this unit and in Vocabulary 3. Examples of prefixes: *un-, dis-, im-, mis-*

un- + certain uncertain *dis- + appear disappear*
im- + possible impossible *mis + understand misunderstand*

Examples of suffixes: *-ness, -ful, -less, -ship*

happy + -ness happiness *care + -ful careful*
end + -less endless *friend + -ship friendship*

Words of two or more syllables ending in *-y* change *-y* to *-i*. See Grammar 49.

1 Add a word from the box to the prefix in each sentence to make a negative word.

advantage	agree	appear	employed	fortunately
interesting	patient	understanding		

- a) I didn't read all of the book because I found it un~~interesting~~ *interesting* . . .
 b) Cycling has one dis..... . It makes you feel hot and sweaty.
 c) Sue had a ticket for the theatre, but un..... she fell ill that night.
 d) Terry can't stand waiting in queues, because she's very im..... .
 e) My brothers always dis..... when it's time to do the washing-up.
 f) After Jack lost his job, he was un..... for three months.
 g) Oh, I completely dis..... with you. I think it was a great film.
 h) Because of a mis....., half the class went to the wrong classroom.

2 Complete the word in each sentence with a prefix from the box.

out-	over-	under-	re-
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- a) My alarm clock didn't go off, and so I *over*..... slept this morning.
 b) Pete packed some shirts and socks, some wear, and his jeans.
 c) It's very cold this morning, so wear your coat.
 d) Our team was completely played by the team from Wales.
 e) I've decided to write my letter, because I made too many mistakes.
 f) Steve cooked the meat, and it was burnt in places.
 g) I have to go to the library today and new my ticket.
 h) The staff went on strike because they were paid and overworked.

INTERMEDIATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

3 Complete the word in each sentence with a suffix from the box. Make any other necessary changes to the word.

-er -let -ess -hood -ship -ful -ery

- a) After two years of friend.....*ship*....., Kate got to know David really well.
- b) If you don't speak the language you feel more like a foreign.....
- c) Sarah spent a very happy child..... on a small island.
- d) I asked a steward..... what time the plane arrived, but she didn't know.
- e) Every teenage..... knows that parents worry a lot.
- f) Don't forget to add a spoon..... of sugar, and some milk.
- g) We live in a beautiful neighbour..... on the outskirts of the city.
- h) Tina picked up a hand..... of snow, and threw it in my face.
- i) Under the floor there was a rumbling sound of machine.....
- j) The college sent Sue a small book..... describing its courses.

4 Complete each sentence with a noun made from the verb given.

- a) There are over one million*inhabitants*..... in this city.
inhabit
- b) Greg often suffers from in the school holidays.
bore
- c) This is the tallest in the whole of the country.
build
- d) Some students can't find suitable
accommodate
- e) I was upset by Carol's to help me.
refuse
- f) It took Richard years to become a successful
act
- g) Every in this company has received a pay rise.
employ
- h) You need a lot of to write a good story.
imagine
- i) Don't forget to turn off the before you leave.
cook
- j) I saw an interesting in the local paper.
advertise

5 Complete each sentence with a noun ending in *-ness* made from a word in the box. Make any necessary changes.

dark	friendly	happy	lonely	short	sick
silly	thin	tired	thorough		

- The shortness of the journey surprised me, as I thought it would be longer.
- Sue was impressed by the of everyone in her new school.
- We knew it was going to rain because of the of the sky.
- Old Mrs Holt's was cured when she was given a pet cat.
- The doctor told Peter that his was a result of overwork.
- Wendy's teacher was impressed by the of her work.
- We wished the bride and groom in their new life together.
- Joe's teachers began to grow tired of his in class.
- I felt rather cold when I arrived because of the of my clothes.
- Jean took a travel pill, and then she felt much better.

6 Complete the word in each sentence with a suffix from the box.

-less	-ly	-y	-ish	-ie	-al	-ous
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- Everyone thanked the fire-fighters for their heroic..... efforts.
- Paul received most of his music..... education from his mother.
- The government is going to provide more houses for home..... people.
- Lisa's mother..... qualities made her a favourite with the children.
- This road is extremely danger..... when the weather is bad.
- It was very fool..... of you to leave all the doors and windows open.
- On rain..... days, we spend a lot of time indoors watching television.



1 Underline the correct word in each sentence.

- a) By 11.00 I felt so tired/tiring that I went to bed.
- b) I heard the film was good, but it was very disappointed/disappointing.
- c) Being alone in an old house at night can be frightened/frightening.
- d) Julie was so embarrassed/embarrassing that her whole face turned red.
- e) Jim gets bored/boring if he has to study too much.
- f) It's very confused/confusing to be taught in so many classrooms.
- g) Andy said that the twenty-mile walk was exhausted/exhausting.
- h) Are you interested/interesting in going to the beach tomorrow?
- i) I was really surprised/surprising when my boss gave me the day off.
- j) Why don't you go away and stop being so annoyed/annoying!

2 Complete the word in *italics* in each sentence with a prefix or suffix from the box. Make any other necessary changes to the word.

-age dis- -ful im- un- -y -ness

- a) I suppose Paul might help us, but it seems *likely*. unlikely
- b) Fred can't fill his pool because there's a water *short*.
- c) I found most of the maths questions completely *possible*.
- d) Jan has taken up *photograph* as a hobby.
- e) Thanks for those notes. They were really *use*.
- f) I *like* winter sports so I never go skiing.
- g) When it's time for bed I start feeling *sleep*.
- h) This is a really *usual* stamp. I've not seen one like it before.
- i) I really like Dan. He's always so happy and *cheer*.
- j) I'm writing to thank you for the *kind* you showed me.

3 Complete each sentence with a word formed from the word in **bold**.

- a) It's unusually cold today, considering it's still summer.
usual
- b) Actually, I found Tony's book was interesting.
surprise
- c), my father used to go to school with your father.
interest
- d) The police managed to find the missing children.
success

- e) Jean's compositions are always written.
beautiful
- f) I'm ashamed of your behaviour!
thorough
- g) This question is difficult, isn't it!
awful
- h) Mike tried to phone Cathy several times.
success
- i) These instructions seem complicated.
necessary
- j) Someone had left the front door open.
obvious

4 Complete each word with a word formed from the word in bold.

- a) I can't sit on this chair. It's really un.....
comfort
- b) Ann has left home and is in..... of her parents.
depend
- c) These old envelopes are re..... so we can save money.
use
- d) Not being chosen for the team was a great dis.....
appoint
- e) Maria and Louis have a really goodship.
relate
- f) Being un..... means that you share with others.
self
- g) Not taking exercise is rather un.....
health
- h) David has a really un..... temper, and gets angry easily.
control
- i) These trousers won't get smaller. They're un.....
shrink
- j) They didn't give Gary the job as he was in.....
experience

5 Complete each sentence with a word formed from the word in **bold**.

- a) Harry asked for a receipt..... and the cashier gave him one.
receive
- b) Nina wants to be a and join the government.
politics
- c) No one knows the exact of the water here.
deep
- d) You have to have a lot of to go fishing.
patient
- e) is a serious matter, and you have to think about it.
marry
- f) Tom sent in his for the job the next day.
apply
- g) Helen's mind is filled with all kinds of unusual
know
- h) There was no for the crash of the airliner.
explain

6 Complete each sentence with a word formed from the word in **bold**.

- a) The theft..... of the diamonds baffled the police.
thief
- b) Most people have no real in ghosts.
believe
- c) Tina had no that anything was wrong.
suspect
- d) We measured the of the room with a ruler.
long
- e) Our teacher was really when she found out.
anger
- f) George won a medal for
brave
- g) Looking in the mirror too much is an example of
vain
- h) Do you think you have the to pass the test?
able