

95 Forming nouns

1 Using suffixes

Suffixes are short additions to the end of words, to make new words:

bank → *banker*, *govern* → *government*

Sometimes the spelling of the original word changes when a suffix is added:
cycle + *ist* → *cyclist*, *argue* → *argument*

Karl is a **trainee** doctor. He hopes to be a **consultant** one day.

2 Jobs, beliefs and languages

	VERB OR NOUN	+ SUFFIX	= PERSON/JOB
verbs	<i>build drive teach wait</i>	-er	<i>builder driver teacher waiter</i>
	<i>employ interview pay train</i>	-ee	<i>employee interviewee payee trainee</i>
	<i>act educate instruct visit</i>	-or	<i>actor educator instructor visitor</i>
	<i>apply assist consult study</i>	-ant/ent	<i>applicant assistant consultant student</i>
nouns	<i>art cycle guitar journal</i>	-ist	<i>artist cyclist guitarist journalist</i>

- ⚠ Not all nouns that end in **-er** or **-or** describe people or jobs:
a *cooker* (= a machine that cooks things) a *calculator* (= a machine that can add, etc.)
Nouns that end in **-er** often have an active meaning and nouns that end in **-ee** have a passive meaning. For example, a *payee* is the person who is paid, not the person who pays.

We often add **-ism** to nouns and adjectives to describe a belief or a set of ideas:

social → *socialism*, *nation* → *nationalism*, *impression* → *impressionism*

COUNTRY	+ SUFFIX	= NATIONALITY (adjective)/LANGUAGE
<i>China Malta Portugal Vietnam</i>	-ese	<i>Chinese Maltese Portuguese Vietnamese</i>
<i>Italy Hungary Russia Slovakia</i>	-(ia)n	<i>Italian* Hungarian* Russian* Slovakian</i>
<i>Finland Poland Spain Turkey</i>	-ish	<i>Finnish Polish Spanish Turkish</i>

* These can also be used as nouns describing nationality: *Italian* → *an Italian*

- ⚠ The names of some languages do not follow these patterns: *The Netherlands* → *Dutch*, *Greece* → *Greek*, *France* → *French*

3 Nouns from verbs and adjectives

VERB	+ SUFFIX	= NOUN
<i>argue govern move treat</i>	-ment	<i>argument government movement treatment</i>
<i>communicate educate produce</i>	-(t)ion	<i>communication education production</i>
<i>examine explain inform invite</i>	-ation	<i>examination explanation information invitation</i>
<i>decide discuss</i>	-(s)ion	<i>decision discussion</i>

ADJECTIVE	+ SUFFIX	= NOUN
<i>blind dark happy ill</i>	-ness	<i>blindness darkness happiness illness</i>
<i>able active equal national</i>	-ity	<i>ability activity equality nationality</i>
<i>distant ignorant important</i>	-ance	<i>distance ignorance importance</i>
<i>different independent silent</i>	-ence	<i>difference independence silence</i>

Practice

1 Complete each sentence with nouns formed from words in Box A and suffixes in Box B.

5.11 Listen and check.

A assist ~~China~~ ill independent inform Italy journal national train treat wait

B -ant -ation -ee -ence -er -ese -ian -ist -ity -ment -ness

- 0 My best friend is studying *Chinese* at university.
- 1 Debbie's working as a for the local newspaper.
- 2 Mexico gained its from Spain in 1821.
- 3 Chickenpox is an which often affects young children.
- 4 Mrs Greenberg isn't here today. Would you like to speak to her?
- 5 Don't let Carla cut your hair – she's only a so she's not very experienced.
- 6 Excuse me. Do you have any on computer courses?
- 7 I don't know if you need a visa. It depends on your
- 8 My sister married an; they live in Milan now.
- 9 Shall I ask the for the bill now?
- 10 She's had a lot of therapy at the hospital, but the wasn't very successful.

96 Forming adjectives

The government has set up these courses to solve the growing problem of **illiterate** adults. The courses are **inexpensive** and **suitable** for all adults who struggled with reading and writing at school.



1 Adjectives from nouns and verbs

We can add suffixes to some nouns and verbs to make adjectives:

NOUN OR VERB	+ SUFFIX	= ADJECTIVE
centre music nation	-al	central musical national
beauty care help pain use	-ful	beautiful careful helpful painful useful
care help pain use	-less	careless helpless painless useless
comfort drink fashion suit	-able	comfortable drinkable fashionable suitable
dirt health rain sun thirst wind	-y	dirty healthy rainy sunny thirsty windy
continue danger fame	-ous	continuous dangerous famous
depend differ excel insist	-ent	dependent different excellent insistent
act attract expense relate	-ive	active attractive expensive relative

Note the suffix **-less** means 'without/not', **-ful** can mean 'displaying/containing' and **-able** after a verb often has the meaning of 'it is possible to'.

NATURAL ENGLISH In informal spoken English we can add the suffix **-ish** to some short adjectives to make the meaning weaker or less exact:

He's got **darkish** hair. (dark but not very dark)

I'm not sure how old she is – she's **youngish**. (fairly young but not very young)

Adjectives, e.g. *interesting/interested* ➤ Unit 19.3

2 Changing the meaning of adjectives

We can use **prefixes** (short additions to the beginning of words) to change the meaning of some adjectives. These prefixes usually mean 'not', e.g. *displeased* = not pleased.

PREFIX	+ ADJECTIVE	= ADJECTIVE WITH NEGATIVE MEANING
<i>dis-</i>	<i>honest loyal pleased</i>	<i>dishonest disloyal displeased</i>
<i>un-</i>	<i>happy tidy usual</i>	<i>unhappy untidy unusual</i>
<i>in-</i>	<i>complete correct formal</i>	<i>incomplete incorrect informal</i>
<i>im-</i>	<i>patient polite possible</i>	<i>impatient impolite impossible</i>
<i>ir-</i>	<i>replaceable responsible</i>	<i>irreplaceable irresponsible</i>
<i>il-</i>	<i>legal literate logical</i>	<i>illegal illiterate illogical</i>

- We can add a prefix to an adjective that already contains a suffix:
unmistakeable, unhelpful, irreplaceable, inexpensive, independent
- If the adjective begins with the sound /p/ we often use *im-*, not *in-*, to make the negative form:
polite → ✓ *impolite* ✗ *inpolite* *perfect* → ✓ *imperfect* ✗ *inperfect*
- We use *ir-* before the sound /r/ and *il-* before the sound /l/:
responsible → ✓ *irresponsible* ✗ *inresponsible* *logical* → ✓ *illogical* ✗ *inlogical*

⚠ With nouns and verbs, the prefixes *in-/im-* do not always mean *not*, they can mean 'into' or 'inside':

to import (= bring things into a country) *income* (= money you receive)
to input (= put information into a computer)

Practice

- 1 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the letter with suitable adjectives, made from the words in brackets. 🎧 5.12 Listen and check.

Summerdean School Wellsby Northants NP23 5GS

Dear Mrs Smithers,

I am writing to you about your son, Matthew. In the last few weeks we have become more and more (0) *displeased* (not pleased) with his attitude. On several occasions he has been (1) (not polite) to me or other members of staff at the school. This (2) (not usual) bad behaviour has come as a shock to us as Matthew had previously been an (3) (excellent) student.

In recent weeks I have also noticed that his clothes are (4) (not tidy) and he seems (5) (not happy). He used to be very neat and (6) (care) when doing his assignments, but now he seems to have developed an (7) (not responsible) and (8) (not care) attitude to his work.

I think it would be (9) (help) if we could discuss the situation. If you phone me, we can arrange a (10) (suit) time to meet.

Yours sincerely,
Hilary Carlton
Form Tutor

Complete the second sentence so it means the same as the first. Use one word only and choose a word from the box to help you. **5.13** Listen and check.

continue drink expense legal **literate** possible ~~replace~~

- 0 Nothing could take the place of our cat. Our cat is irreplaceable.
- 1 I'm afraid her son can't read or write. Her son is
- 2 Dan's car cost a lot of money. Dan's car was
- 3 The rain didn't stop for two weeks. The rain was for two weeks.
- 4 You can't live without water. It's to live without water.
- 5 Don't do that, it's against the law. Don't do that, it's
- 6 The water is salty, but you can drink it. The water is, although it's salty.

97 Forming verbs

This is the British Library. The collection **outgrew** its old home in the British Museum and has now been **rehoused** in a modern building. The catalogue **has been computerised** and can be searched on the Internet.



1 Verbs from nouns and adjectives

We can make some nouns and adjectives into verbs by adding suffixes:

STEM NOUN/ADJECTIVE	+ SUFFIX	= VERB
commercial computer critic modern special summary	-ise/-ize*	commercialise computerise criticise modernise specialise summarise
awake flat length short	-(e)n	awaken flatten lengthen shorten
active different valid	-(i)ate	activate differentiate validate
example false note sign solid	-(i)fy	exemplify falsify notify signify solidify

* The spelling -ize is more common in American English.

The meaning of the verb is related to the original adjective or noun:

*This dress is too long. Can you **shorten** it?* (= make it shorter)

*We had to **summarise** the chapter.* (= make a summary)

*The application forms **have been computerised**.* (= changed to an electronic system)

2 Changing the meaning of verbs

We can use prefixes to change the meaning of some verbs:

PREFIX	MEANING	VERB	EXAMPLES
re-	do again	reappear rebuild rehouse reorganise repay reproduce rethink reunite	The painting has been rehoused in the new gallery. (= put into a new home) I had to reorganise the files in alphabetical order. (= organise them again)
dis-	not/stop	disagree dislike disconnect	I dislike pasta. (= I don't like it.) Our electricity has been disconnected (= stopped)
over-	too much	overeat overcharge overheat	They always overcharge in that shop. (= charge too much money) The engine overheated and blew up.
un-	opposite or reverse action	undress unfold unpack	I opened the envelope and unfolded the letter. Have you unpacked your suitcase yet?
mis-	badly/ wrongly	misbehave misinform misjudge	The children always misbehave when they are tired. (= behave badly) I'm afraid you've been misinformed . (= given wrong information)
out-	more/ better/ further	outdo outgrow outperform	The collection outgrew its old home. (= grew bigger than the space it was in) Their team easily outperformed us. (= performed better than us)

The most common prefixes are shown in the chart. Other, less common prefixes include:
under- (= not enough) *The workers in that factory **are underpaid**.*
inter- (= between) *Members of the two tribes rarely **intermarry**.*

Practice

- 1 Complete the sentences with a suitable form of a verb, using the words in brackets.
Form the correct verb by using a prefix from Box A or a suffix from Box B.

 5.14 Listen and check.

A dis- mis- over- re- un-

B -ate -en -ify -ise

- After the hurricane the victims were rehoused in temporary homes. (house)
- I people who shout at waiters. I think it's very impolite. (like)
- They've really this place, it used to be free! (commercial)
- These trousers are a little too short. Can you them for me? (length)
- If you freeze water, it will and turn into ice. (solid)
- Welcome home. Put those heavy suitcases down – you can them later. (pack)
- I have to phone the bank in order to my new credit card. (active)
- Children who will be punished. (behave)
- I'm sure they've me. My electricity bill is usually much lower. (charge)