

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a Their main complain is related to the quality of the food.
b Their main complaint is related to the quality of the food.
- 2 a Technology has greatly affected our lives.
b Technology has greatly affected our lifea.

The verb *complain* and the noun *complaint* are often confused:

Some people *are always complaining*.

We *didn't hear any complaints*.

Other commonly confused forms are:

- *advise* (verb) and *advice* (noun):
It's better not to give advice to people who don't ask for it.
- *live* (verb) and *life / lives* (noun):
This diet has changed my life.
- *sit / sat* (verb) and *seat* (noun):
Could we have seats at the front of the cinema, please? (not could we have sits)
- *pay / paid* (verb) and *payment* (noun):
Which method of payment do you prefer – cash or credit card? (not method-of-paying)
- *stay* (verb) and *stay* (noun):
I hope you enjoy your stay in Britain. (not your staying)

How do I use negative prefixes?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a The coach driver was very unpolite and unfriendly.
b The coach driver was very impolite and unfriendly.
- 2 a In fact the whole tour was quite satisfactory.
b In fact the whole tour was quite unsatisfactory.

These prefixes give words a negative meaning: *un-, in-, im-, dis-, mis- and non-*.

The most common negative prefix is *un-*. Some words taking *un-* are:
unavailable, uncomfortable, unconditional, unconscious, unconvincing, undemanding, undoubtedly, unforgettable, unforgivable, unlimited, unnecessary, unoccupied, unpolited, unprejudiced, unsatisfactory, unscheduled

in- is also a commonly-used prefix. Words taking *in-* are:
inadequate, inadvisable, inappropriate, incapable, incompetent, incomplete, inconvenient, ineffective, inexcusable, inexpensive, inexperienced, insecure, insufficient, intolerable

We use *im-* before words beginning with *p* and *m*:
impolite, impossible, impractical, improper, immature

Words taking *non-* are: *non-existent, non-native*

Words taking *mis-* are: *mislead, misunderstand*

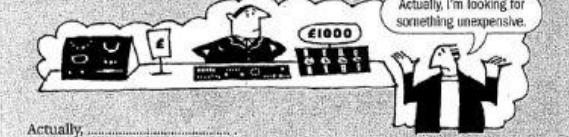
Words taking *dis-* are: *discourage, disobedient, disorganised, dissatisfied*

☆ We say *unsatisfactory* (adj), but *dissatisfaction* (noun) and *dissatisfied* (adj).

2 Correct the mistake below.



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3 Underline the correct word.

- 1 What's the most frequent *complain* / *complaint* you receive from students?
- 2 Mainly, they *complain* / *complaint* that there are too many students in the class.
- 3 Change is inevitable – you've come to a turning point in your *life* / *live*.
- 4 How would you like to be *pay* / *paid* for your work – cash or cheque?
- 5 When we go to the theatre, we buy the best *sits* / *seats* we can afford.
- 6 A good piece of *advice* / *advise* is, 'Don't worry!'
- 7 Unfortunately, every business will receive its share of *complains* / *complaints*.
- 8 Jenny enjoyed her *stay* / *staying* in America, but was glad to get home.

3 Complete each sentence with a negative form of the word in brackets.

- 1 The College canteen is and needs to be improved. (*adequate*)
- 2 You my meaning or you wouldn't have taken offence. (*understand*)
- 3 I don't accept that my behaviour was in any way (*proper*)
- 4 I'm writing to express my with your firm. (*satisfy*)
- 5 We're most unhappy with the service you provided. (*satisfy*)
- 6 I'm afraid your report is (*complete*)
- 7 For a speaker, your pronunciation is excellent. (*native*)
- 8 Thank you for a(n) holiday. (*forget*)