1E Word Skills

Adjective endings

I can use different adjective endings.

1 SPEAKING Look at the title of the text and the photo. What do you think the story is about?

2 Read the text. Who replied to Zoe's message? When did they reply, and from where?

Message in a bottle

In 1990, Zoe Lemon was on a ferry, sailing from Hull in England to Germany. She was going on holiday with her family. The journey was long and tiring and ten-year-old Zoe soon got bored. To pass the time, she decided to write a message in a bottle and drop it into the sea. 'It will be interesting if someone finds it,' she thought. Then she forgot about the bottle completely.

Twenty-three years later, she was amazed to get a reply from someone in the Netherlands. A man was walking on the beach and was surprised to find Zoe's bottle in the sand. He wrote to the address on the message, where Zoe's parents still live. Zoe was delighted, but it was also very moving for her to see her message again after twenty-three years, and she cried when she read it. 'It's astonishing that the bottle didn't break,' said Zoe. Her five-year-old son thinks it is all very exciting and wants to put a message in a bottle himself!



3 SPEAKING Work in pairs. Imagine you are going to put a message in a bottle and drop it into the sea. What would you write? Tell the class.

LEARN THIS! *-ed / -ing* adjectives

a Many adjectives ending in [1]_____ describe how people feel. Adjectives ending in [2]_____ describe something which makes them feel that way. Pairs of *-ed / -ing* adjectives like these are formed from verbs, e.g. *disappoint*.
I'm disappointed. My exam result is disappointing.

b Sometimes the spelling changes.
worry (verb) – *worried, worrying* *bore* (verb) – *bored, boring*

c Not all *-ed* adjectives have *-ing* equivalents, e.g. *delighted, ashamed*.

4 DICTIONARY WORK Read the dictionary entries and the Learn this! box. Complete rule a using *-ed* and *-ing*.

exhausted /ɪgˈzɔːstɪd/ *adj* very tired
exhausting /ɪgˈzɔːstɪŋ/ *adj* making sb very tired: *Teaching young children is exhausting work.*

5 Find all the *-ed* and *-ing* adjectives in the text in exercise 2. Which of the *-ed* adjectives does not have an *-ing* equivalent?

6 DICTIONARY WORK Use a dictionary to find *-ed* and *-ing* adjectives formed from the verbs below. Make a list in your notebook. Which verb does not form an *-ing* adjective?

annoy worry disgust exhaust relieve satisfy surprise

7 Circle the correct forms to complete the sentences.

1 I don't like this film. It's **bored** / **boring**.
2 I don't find computer games very **excited** / **exciting**.
3 Don't be **frightened** / **frightening**. The dog won't bite.
4 I was **shocked** / **shocking** when I heard the news.
5 It's really **annoyed** / **annoying** when you interrupt.
6 Why are you looking so **worried** / **worrying**?

8 Complete each pair of sentences with *-ed* and *-ing* adjectives formed from the verbs in brackets.

1 **a** I don't understand this map. It's very _____. (confuse)
b Can you help me with my maths? I'm _____. (confuse)
2 **a** I was _____ when I fell over. (embarrass)
b I hate it when my dad dances. It's so _____! (embarrass)
3 **a** That journey was very _____. (tire)
b I was _____ after a long day at school. (tire)
4 **a** Are you _____ in photography? (interest)
b Which is the most _____ lesson in this unit? (interest)
5 **a** Yuck! This cheese smells _____! (disgust)
b She was _____ by his bad behaviour. (disgust)

LEARN THIS! *How* + adjective

We often react to things we hear or see with *How* + adjective.
How boring! How disgusting! How wonderful!

9 SPEAKING Read the Learn this! box. Then work in pairs.

Student A: Make a sentence using the past simple and the words below. Add your own ideas.
Student B: React to the sentence using *How* + an *-ing* adjective.

1 I / drop / phone / and it / break
2 My dad / dance / my birthday party
3 My favourite football team / lose / the weekend
4 I / get full marks / English exam
5 I / see / a car crash / town centre

I dropped my phone and it broke. How annoying!

LIVEWORKSHEETS