

Word Formation

- There are certain **prefixes** (syllables put at the beginning of words) and **suffixes** (syllables put at the end of words) which are used to form new words. However, there are no exact rules to follow to form one word from another.

Prefixes

anti- = against	antinuclear	pre- = before	prejudge
bi- = two	bilingual	pro- = in favour of	pro-American
co- = with	cooperation	re- = again	rearrange
de- = acting against	debug	semi- = half	semicircle
ex- = before, former	ex-general	sub- = under	subconscious
inter- = between	intermediate	super- = above	supernatural
mono- = one	monolingual	trans- = across	transatlantic
non- = not	non-stop	tri- = three	tricycle
over- = too much	overeat	under- = not enough	underestimate
post- = after	postgraduate	uni- = one	uniform

- There are certain **prefixes** which mean **not** or show an **opposite** state or process. These are:

un- <i>unbelievable</i>	ir- (before r) <i>irresistible</i>	in- <i>incompetent</i>
im- <i>impossible</i>	il- (before l) <i>illegal</i>	dis- <i>disagree</i>
mal- <i>malfunction</i>		mis- <i>mistreat</i>

Suffixes

-ee (with passive meaning)	employee	-ish a) = with the quality	childish
-er (with active meaning)	employer	b) = rather	smallish
-ful a) = with	careful	-less = without	careless
b) = indicates quantity	spoonful	-proof = safe against	waterproof

- To describe people we add **-ar**, **-er**, **-or** to the end of verbs or **-ist**, **-ian** to the end of nouns or verbs making any necessary spelling changes. *lie* – *liar*, *rob* – *robber*, *create* – *creator*, *type* – *typist*, *music* – *musician*

Nouns formed from verbs

-age break – <i>breakage</i>	-ence prefer – <i>preference</i>	-sis analyse – <i>analysis</i>
-al propose – <i>proposal</i>	-ion confuse – <i>confusion</i>	-tion direct – <i>direction</i>
-ance annoy – <i>annoyance</i>	-ment amuse – <i>amusement</i>	-y perjure – <i>perjury</i>
-ation organise – <i>organisation</i>	-sion suspend – <i>suspension</i>	

Nouns formed from adjectives

-ance tolerant – <i>tolerance</i>	-tion desperate – <i>desperation</i>	-ment content – <i>contentment</i>
-cy fluent – <i>fluency</i>	-iness happy – <i>happiness</i>	-ty royal – <i>royalty</i>
-ence obedient – <i>obedience</i>	-ity popular – <i>popularity</i>	-y honest – <i>honesty</i>

Adjectives formed from verbs

-able bear – <i>bearable</i>	-ive decide – <i>decisive</i>	-en dark – <i>darken</i>	-tive fight – <i>frighten</i>
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Verbs formed from adjectives/nouns

-en dark – <i>darken</i>	-tive fight – <i>frighten</i>
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14 Make nouns from the following words.

1 employ *employee, employer, employment*

2 injure *injury*

3 except *exception*

4 amaze *amazement*

5 differ *difference*

6 publish *publisher*

7 loyal *loyalty*

8 reject *rejection*

9 drive *driver*

10 examine *examination*

15 Add the correct prefixes to the words in bold.

1 The anti- **government** protesters marched to parliament.

2 John **slept** and was late for work.

3 He is taking a **atlantic** flight from London to New York.

4 The **president** of the United States was honoured at a ceremony.

5 Superman is a comic strip character who has **human** strength.

6 John left his job because he was **able** to deal with such a large amount of work.

7 The two countries **operated** to catch the criminal.

8 That child looks very thin. I think he must be **fed**.

9 The train travels **stop** from London to Edinburgh.

10 Tom knew the information was somewhere in his **conscious**, but he couldn't remember it.

16 Fill in the correct form of the words in capitals.



To be a good nurse, a nursing 1) *qualification* is not all you need. As a nurse, your 2) *personal* plays a huge part in how 3) *success* you are in your work. Therefore, it's very important to make an honest 4) *analysis* of your own character before you start a career in nursing. You should certainly not 5) *estimate* the challenges involved in the 6) *occupy* As a nurse, you need to have the 7) *ability* to care for patients on both a medical and a personal level. For example, 8) *tolerant* of difficult patients is a very important quality. All in all, nursing may not always be 9) *enjoy* , but very few other jobs give such a wonderful sense of 10) *achievement* each day.

QUALIFY
PERSONAL
SUCCESS
ANALYSE

ESTIMATE
OCCUPY
ABLE
TOLERANT
ENJOY
ACHIEVE

17 Add the correct prefixes to form the opposite of the words in bold.

1 I don't know what this letter says because the handwriting is totally **illegible**.

2 It's raining, so **fortunately** the game has been cancelled.

3 Ricky is quite **polite** as he never says 'please' or 'thank you'.

4 The garden is surrounded by a tall fence and is **visible** from the main road.

5 Kim found a dog on her doorstep which had obviously been **treated** by its owner.

6 They had their electricity **connected** because they didn't pay the bill in time.

7 Grace is quite a(n) **honest** person, so I'm not sure she is telling the truth.

8 Our team isn't playing well as they seem **capable** of keeping possession of the ball today.