

# 105 Forming nouns



## 1 Nouns that end in *-er*, *-or*, *-ant/-ent* and *-ist*

These nouns are often people and their jobs  
(e.g. *a teacher*, *a dentist*):

VERB OR NOUN	+	= PERSON/JOB
teach drive build	-er	teacher driver builder
visit act	-or	visitor actor
assist study	-ant/-ent	assistant student
art journal cycle	-ist	artist journalist cyclist

Some nouns that end in *-er* are things, not people:

*cooker* = a machine that cooks things

*photocopier* = a machine that makes copies

## 2 Nouns that end in *-ese*, *-(i)an* and *-ish*

These nouns are often nationalities and/or languages. They are also used as adjectives:

COUNTRY	+	= NATIONALITY/LANGUAGE/ADJECTIVE
China Japan Portugal	-ese	Chinese Japanese Portuguese
Italy Russia Hungary	-(i)an	Italian Russian Hungarian
England Spain Poland Sweden	-ish	English Spanish Polish Swedish

! The names of some languages and nationalities do not follow these patterns  
(e.g. *The Netherlands* → *Dutch*, *Greece* → *Greek*, *Thailand* → *Thai*).

## 3 Nouns that end in *-ment*, *-(t)ion*, *-ation* and *-sion*

We make these nouns from verbs:

VERB	+	= NOUN
move argue govern	-ment	movement argument government
communicate educate	-ion	communication education
produce	-tion	production
examine invite inform	-ation	examination invitation information
discuss decide	-sion	discussion decision

## 4 Nouns that end in *-ness*, *-ity* and *-ance/-ence*

We make these nouns from adjectives:

ADJECTIVE	+	= NOUN
happy dark ill	-ness	happiness darkness illness
able active national	-ity	ability activity nationality
important distant	-ance	importance distance
independent different silent	-ence	independence difference silence

The spelling often changes when we add letters to a word that ends with a vowel or *-y*:  
*cycle* → *cyclist*, *study* → *student*, *decide* → *decision*, *argue* → *argument*, *happy* → *happiness*

## Practice

### 1 Match the words in A with the letters in B to make ten more nouns.

You need to change the spelling in some of them.

A visit active art China dark drive	B -or -ation -ent -er -ese -ion
educate examine govern Poland study	-ish -ist -ity -ment -ness

0 .....visitor.....	3 .....	6 .....	9 .....
1 .....	4 .....	7 .....	10 .....
2 .....	5 .....	8 .....	

### 2 Complete the sentences. Use nouns formed from the words in brackets () .

- 0 Elizabeth is studying *Japanese*... at university. (Japan)
- 1 Is Billy better after his ..... yet? (ill)
- 2 The bus hit a ..... as it was turning the corner. (cycle)
- 3 Misha speaks Polish and ..... (Hungary)
- 4 We need to buy a new ..... for the kitchen. (cook)
- 5 I heard a really interesting ..... on the radio. (discuss)
- 6 When did your country get its .....? (independent)
- 7 I can understand ..... but I can't write it very well. (Portugal)
- 8 What is the ..... between New York and Los Angeles? (distant)

### 3 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the notice with nouns from this unit.

The first two letters of each noun are given.

#### Tranley Adult (0) Education Centre CURRENT JOBS

- Art (1) Te..... Are you a good (2) ar.....? We need someone to teach art on our painting course (Tuesday and Thursday evenings).
- (3) Ex..... manager. We need someone to organise tests and examinations at the centre. We have more than 600 (4) st..... here, so there are a lot of exams to organise each year. You should have at least five years' experience in adult education.
- Teaching (5) As..... This job involves helping teachers on our (6) co..... course. The course helps people to communicate in writing and speech and to discuss different topics. (You will have your own (7) di..... group). Good (8) En..... is necessary for this job.
- Bus (9) Dr..... We need someone to drive people to swimming classes at the local swimming pool. You should have a driving licence.

For more (10) in..... about hours, salary, etc., please ask at reception.

### 4 Complete these sentences. Use nouns from this unit.

Change the words in brackets () if necessary, so they are true for you.

*a boring*

- 0 I think watching television is (an interesting) ..... *activity*....
- 1 I think ..... is (a beautiful) language.
- 2 My favourite ..... is (Picasso).
- 3 In my country, shop ..... are usually (polite and friendly).