Derivatives

This unit deals with some verbs and nouns which derive from adjectives.

Adjective Root	Verb = Adjective + -en	Noun = Adjective + -ness
Describing a quality/state	Describing the process of acquiring the quality / state of the adjective	The quality / state described by the adjective
dark	darken	darkness

- Some other common adjectives that form verbs and nouns in the same way are: *fresh, hard, loose, quick, sharp, thick* and *weak.*
- The adjectives **broad**, **deep** and **wide** form nouns in **-th**:
  broad → *broaden* → *breadth*
  deep → *deepen* → *depth*
  wide → *widen* → *width*
- Some verbs in **-en** do not derive from adjectives, but from the corresponding nouns:

Adjective	Noun	Verb
high	height	heighten
long	length	lengthen
strong	strength	strengthen
—	fright	frighten
—	threat	threaten

- The adjective **short** forms two nouns with a difference in meaning:
  short → *shortness* (being short or having little of sth)
  → *shortage* (lack or insufficient quantity of sth)

Adjective Root in -nt	Noun in -nce or -ncy
Describing a quality / state	The quality/state described by the adjective
distant	distance
intelligent	intelligence
efficient	efficiency

- Most adjectives in **-ant/-ent** form nouns in **-ance** and-**ence**.
- Some common adjectives that form nouns in **-ance** are: *arrogant, assistant, ignorant, important, relevant, reluctant, resistant, significant* and *tolerant.*
- Some common adjectives that form nouns in **-ence** are: *absent, confident, convenient, different, evident, innocent, patient, present, silent* and *violent.*
- Some common adjectives in **-ant/-ent** that form nouns in **-ancy/-ency** are: *consistent, efficient, fluent, frequent, pregnant, proficient, redundant, transparent, urgent* and *vacant.*

Adjective Root in -te	Noun in -cy
Describing a quality / state	The quality/state described by the adjective
private	privacy

- Some other common adjectives that form nouns in the same way are: *(in)accurate, (in)adequate, (il)literate, immediate, intimate* and *obstinate.*
- The adjective **secret** forms two nouns with a difference in meaning:
  secret → *secret* (fact known only to few people and not told to others)
  → *secrecy* (having/keeping secrets)
- The adjective **fortunate** does not form a noun in **-cy** but derives from the noun **fortune**.

LIVEWORKSHEETS