

Word Formation

Prefixes, suffixes, and word building at C1

NAME _____

DATE _____

KEY RULE:

Prefixes change meaning; suffixes change word class.

1 Negative Prefixes

EASY

Add the correct negative prefix.

Word bank: un- / dis- / im- / il- / ir-

1. ____ + happy = unhappy

3. ____ + possible = impossible

5. ____ + regular = irregular

7. ____ + agree = disagree

9. ____ + moral = immoral

2. ____ + honest = dishonest

4. ____ + legal = illegal

6. ____ + responsible = irresponsible

8. ____ + accurate = inaccurate

10. ____ + logical = illogical

2 Suffixes: -ful / -less / -ous

MEDIUM

Add the correct suffix to form an adjective.

Word bank: -less / -ful / -ous

1. care + ____ = careless

3. hope + ____ = hopeless

5. harm + ____ = harmless

7. danger + ____ = dangerous

9. wonder + ____ = wonderful

2. use + ____ = useful

4. courage + ____ = courageous

6. beauty + ____ = beautiful

8. home + ____ = homeless

10. mystery + ____ = mysterious

3 Prefixes: over- / under- / mis- / re-

HARD

Add the correct prefix.

Word bank: over- / under- / mis- / re-

1. ____ + estimate (too high) = ____

3. ____ + interpret (wrongly) = ____

5. ____ + work (too much) = ____

7. ____ + use (wrongly) = ____

9. ____ + read (again) = ____

2. ____ + estimate (too low) = ____

4. ____ + write (again) = ____

6. ____ + understand (wrongly) = ____

8. ____ + pay (too little) = ____

10. ____ + judge (wrongly) = ____

4

Form the Correct Word**VERY HARD**

Use the base word to form the correct part of speech.

1. DECIDE: The ____ was final.

3. DEVELOP: Rapid ____ was noted.

5. IMPROVE: The ____ was clear.

7. INNOVATE: Their ____ inspired.

9. COURAGE: She showed great ____.

2. ACHIEVE: Her ____ was remarkable.

4. ANALYSE: The ____ was thorough.

6. COMPETE: They faced ____ challenges.

8. ORGANISE: The ____ was poor.

10. MYSTERY: He behaved ____.

Answer Key

Check your answers below

1 Exercise 1 Negative Prefixes

1 un-

2 dis-

3 im-

4 il-

5 ir-

6 ir-

7 dis-

8 in-

9 im-

10 il-

2 Exercise 2 Suffixes: -ful / -less / -ous

1 -less

2 -ful

3 -less

4 -ous

5 -less

6 -ful

7 -ous

8 -less

9 -ful

10 -ous

3 Exercise 3 Prefixes: over- / under- / mis- / re-

1 overestimate

2 underestimate

3 misinterpret

4 rewrite

5 overwork

6 misunderstand

7 misuse

8 underpay

9 reread

10 misjudge

4 Exercise 4 Form the Correct Word

1 decision

2 achievement

3 development

4 analysis

5 improvement

6 competitive

7 innovation

8 organisation

9 courage

10 mysteriously