

B1 ENGLISH
CHAPTER 4 Lesson 3
Vocabulary:
Word formation (Unit 70-74)

A

Common noun suffixes

-er / -or is used for the *person* who does an activity, e.g. **writer**, **painter**, **worker**, **shopper**, **teacher**. You can use **-er** with a wide range of verbs to make them into nouns.

Sometimes the **-er** suffix is written as **-or** (it is still pronounced / ɜː /). It is worth making a special list of these words as you meet them, e.g. **actor**, **donor** [person who donates something], **operator**, **sailor**, **supervisor** [person whose job is to make sure that other people do their jobs correctly, safely, etc.].

-er/-or are also used for *things* which do a particular job, e.g. **pencil sharpener**, **bottle opener**, **grater**, **projector**, **stapler**, **coat hanger**.

-er and **-ee** (pronounced / i /) can contrast with each other meaning ‘person who does something’ (**-er**) and ‘person who receives or experiences the action’ (**-ee**), e.g. **employer/employee** /emˈplɔɪjˈiː/, **sender**, **addressee**, **payee** (e.g. of a sum of money).

-tion/-sion/-ion are used to form nouns from verbs, e.g. **complication**, **pollution**, **reduction**, **alteration**, **donation**, **promotion**, **admission**, **action**.

-ist [a person] and **-ism** [an activity or ideology] are used for people’s politics, beliefs and ideologies, and sometimes their profession (compare with **-er/-or** professions above), e.g. **Marxist**, **typist**, **physicist**, **terrorist**, **Buddhism**, **journalism**.

-ist is also often used for people who play musical instruments, e.g. **pianist**, **violinist**, **cellist**.

-ness is used to make nouns from adjectives, e.g. **goodness**, **readiness**, **forgetfulness**, **happiness**, **sadness**, **weakness**. Note what happens to adjectives that end in **-y**.

B

Adjective suffixes

-able/-ible / -bl- with verbs means ‘can be done’, e.g.

drinkable **washable** **readable** **forgivable** **edible** [can be eaten] **flexible** [can be bent]

C

Verbs

-ise (or **-ize**, which is more common in American English) forms verbs from adjectives, e.g. **modernise** [make modern], **commercialise**, **industrialise**, **computerise**.

D

Other suffixes that can help you recognise the word class

- ment:** (nouns) excitement, enjoyment, replacement [the act of putting sb or sth in the place of sb or sth else]
- ity:** (nouns) flexibility [ability to change easily according to the situation], productivity, scarcity
- hood:** (abstract nouns, especially family terms) childhood, motherhood, brotherhood
- ship:** (abstract nouns, especially status) friendship, partnership, membership
- ive:** (adjectives) active, passive (in language, the passive is when the receiver of an action becomes the subject, e.g. *The bank was robbed*), productive [producing a positive large amount of something]
- al:** (adjectives) brutal, legal [related to or which follows the law], (nouns) refusal, arrival
- ous:** (adjectives) delicious, outrageous [shocking and morally unacceptable], furious [very angry]
- ful:** (adjectives) hopeful, useful, forgetful
- less:** (adjectives) useless, harmless [which cannot hurt or damage anyone or anything], homeless
- ify:** (verbs) beautify, purify, terrify [cause someone to be extremely afraid]

The informal suffix **-ish** can be added to most common adjectives, ages and times to make them less precise, e.g. She’s **thirtyish**. He has **reddish** hair. Come about **eightish**.

Language help

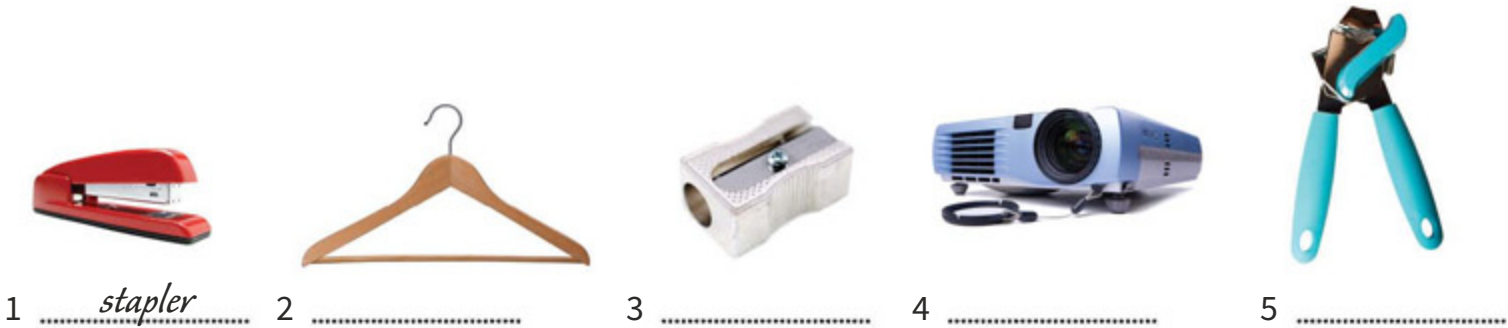
Adding a suffix can sometimes change the stress in a word. Be sure to check in a dictionary.

Examples:

flexible → flexi**bil**ity pro**duc**tive → product**iv**ity **piano** → **pian**ist

Exercises

70.1 These pictures show objects ending in *-er/-or*. Can you name them?



70.2 Do these words mean a thing or a person, or can they mean both? Use a dictionary if necessary.

- 1 a cooker *thing* 3 a ticket holder 5 a cleaner 7 a drinker
2 a grater 4 an MP3 player 6 a smoker 8 an advisor

70.3 Use the *-er/-or*, *-ee* and *-ist* suffixes to make the names of the following. If you need to use a dictionary, try looking up the words in bold.

- 1 A person who plays jazz on the **piano**. *a jazz pianist* 6 A person to whom a sum of money is **paid**.
2 A thing that **wipes** rain off your car windscreen. 7 A machine for **washing** dishes.
3 A person who plays classical **violin**. 8 A person who **donates** their organs upon their death.
4 A person who takes professional **photographs**. 9 A person to whom a letter is **addressed**.
5 A person who **acts** in amateur theatre.

70.4 Rewrite the underlined parts of the sentences using a suffix from the opposite page and making any spelling changes needed.

- 1 Most of his crimes can be forgiven. Most of his crimes are *forgivable*.
2 The Club refuses to admit anyone not wearing shoes. The Club refuses to anyone not wearing shoes.
3 Her only fault is that she is lazy. Her only fault is .
4 This firm has produced a lot recently. This firm has been very recently.
5 I found the book very easy and pleasant to read. I found the book very .
6 I have lovely memories of when I was a child. I have lovely memories of my .
7 You can't wash that jacket. That jacket isn't .
8 The most important thing in life is having friends. The most important thing in life is .

70.5 Complete the table with the different parts of speech. Do not fill the shaded boxes.

noun	verb	adjective
	eat	<i>edible</i>
fury		
		beautiful
		scarce
	refuse	
		modern
	forget	
	act	

70.6 Over to you

List six jobs you would like to have. How many different suffixes are there in your list? Do any of the job names not have a suffix (e.g. pilot, film star)?

A

Negative prefixes on adjectives

Prefixes are often used to give adjectives a negative or an opposite meaning. For example, fair/**un**fair, experienced/**in**experienced and similar/**dis**similar are opposites. Other examples are '**unn**atural', '**in**edible', '**dis**organised'. Unfortunately, there is no easy way of knowing which prefix any adjective will use to form its opposite.

in- becomes **im-** before a root beginning with 'm' or 'p', e.g. **im**mature, **im**patient, **im**moral, **im**possible, **im**probable. Similarly **in-** becomes **ir-** before a word beginning with 'r', e.g. **ir**regular, **ir**responsible, **ir**replaceable, and **il-** before a word beginning with 'l', e.g. **il**legal, **il**legible, **il**literate.

Language help

The prefix **in-** (and its variations) does not always have a negative meaning - often it gives the idea of inside or into, e.g. **in**ternal, **im**port, **in**sert, **in**come.

B

Negative prefixes on verbs

The prefixes **un-** and **dis-** can also form the opposites of verbs, e.g. tie/**un**tie, appear/**dis**appear.

These prefixes are used to reverse the action of the verb. Here are some more examples: **dis**agree, **dis**approve, **dis**believe, **dis**connect, **dis**courage, **dis**like, **dis**prove, **dis**qualify, **un**bend, **un**do, **un**dress, **un**fold, **un**load, **un**lock, **un**veil, **un**wrap, **un**zip.

C

Other common prefixes

Some words with prefixes use a hyphen. Check in a dictionary if you're not sure.

prefix	meaning	examples
anti	against	anti-war antisocial antibiotic antiseptic
auto	of or by oneself	autograph auto-pilot autobiography
bi	two/twice	bicycle bilateral biannual bilingual
ex	former	ex-wife ex-smoker ex-boss
ex	out of	extract exhale excommunicate
micro	small	microbiology microchip microscopic microwave
mis	badly/wrongly	misunderstand mistranslate mislead
mono	one/single	monolingual monologue monogamous
multi	many	multinational multimedia multi-purpose
over	too much	overdo overtired oversleep overeat
post	after	post-war postgraduate post-impressionist
pre	before	preconceived pre-war pre-judge
pro	in favour of	pro-government pro-revolutionary
pseudo	false	pseudo-scientific pseudo-intellectual
re	again/back	rewrite regain rearrange repay replace renew
semi	half	semi-circular semi-final semi-detached
sub	under	subway submarine subdivision
under	not enough	underworked underused undercooked

Exercises

71.1 Which negative adjective fits each of the following definitions?

- 1 unfair means not being fair or right
- 2 means impossible to eat.
- 3 means unable to read or write.
- 4 means not being well organised.
- 5 means not having much sense of responsibility.
- 6 means unable to be replaced.

71.2 Use the word in brackets to complete the sentences. Add the necessary prefix and put the word in the correct form.

- 1 The runner was disqualified after a blood test. (qualify)
- 2 Children (and adults) love parcels at Christmas time. (wrap)
- 3 I almost always find that I with his opinion. (agree)
- 4 I'm sure he's lying but it's going to be hard to his story. (prove)
- 5 After a brief speech the President the new statue. (veil)
- 6 It took the removal men an hour our things from the van. (load)
- 7 His phone was because he didn't pay his last bill. (connect)
- 8 Hannah the letter and began to read it. (fold)

71.3 Answer the following questions with words from the table opposite.

- 1 What kind of oven cooks things particularly fast? microwave
- 2 How can you describe a cream, for example, that helps prevent infection?
- 3 What kind of company has branches in many countries?
- 4 How are aeroplanes often flown for easy stretches of a flight? on
- 5 What is a student who is studying for a second degree?
- 6 What word means 'underground railway' in the US and 'underground passage' in the UK?

71.4 Write the opposites of the words underlined. Not all the words you need are on the opposite page. Use a dictionary to help you.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 He's a very <u>honest</u> man. <u>dishonest</u> | 7 She's <u>employed</u> . |
| 2 I'm sure she's <u>discreet</u> . | 8 He's very <u>efficient</u> . |
| 3 I always find him very <u>sensitive</u> . | 9 The door is <u>locked</u> . |
| 4 It's a <u>convincing</u> argument. | 10 He seems <u>grateful</u> for our help. |
| 5 That's a very <u>relevant</u> point. | 11 I'm sure she's <u>loyal</u> to the firm. |
| 6 She's always <u>obedient</u> . | 12 He's a <u>tolerant</u> person. |

71.5 Using the table opposite, construct words or phrases to replace the underlined words.

- 1 He's in favour of the American approach. pro-American
- 2 The BBC tries to avoid pronouncing foreign words incorrectly.
- 3 Most people say they have to work too hard but are paid too little.
- 4 Dan says that economics is not really a science even if it claims to be one.
- 5 She's still on good terms with the man who used to be her husband.
- 6 He made a mistake in the calculation and had to do it again.

A

Verbs based on Latin words

Many words in English are formed from Latin roots. These words are often considered fairly formal in English. Here are some examples of the more common Latin roots, with some of the English verbs derived from them.

DUC, DUCT lead

He **conducted** the orchestra with great vigour. [led]

Nothing would **induce** me to join their organisation. [persuade / lead]

The railway goes over a high **viaduct**. [a high bridge across a river or valley]

PONE, POSE place, put

The meeting has been **postponed** until next week. [put off to a later date]

The President was **deposed** by his own son. [put out of office]

The government have **imposed** a sizeable tax increase. [put into force]

Beethoven **composed** some beautiful pieces of music. [created, put together]

She **deposited** some money in her bank account. [placed, put in]

PORT carry, take

How are you going to **transport** your things to the States? [send across]

Britain **imports** cotton and **exports** wool. [buys in] [sells out]

Our opinions are **supported** by a considerable amount of research. [held up / backed]

Foreigners who commit crimes are usually **deported**. [taken/sent away to another country]

PRESS press, push

She was **impressed** by his presentation. [filled with admiration and respect]

This weather **depresses** me. [fills me with miserable feelings]

She always **expresses** herself very articulately. [puts her thoughts into words]

SPECT see, look

You should **respect** your parents / the laws of a country. [look up to]

The police officer **inspected** the mysterious package. [looked into / examined]

Many pioneers travelled west in America to **prospect** for gold. [look for / search]

VERT turn

I tried the new make of coffee but I soon **reverted** to my old favourite brand. [went back]

Can you **convert** this document to a pdf? [change from one form to another]

The police **diverted** the traffic because there was a demonstration. [sent it a different way]

B

Nouns based on Latin words

The examples above are of verbs only. Note that for all the verbs listed, there is usually at least one noun, sometimes a different one for a person and an idea. Here are some examples.

verb	person noun	abstract noun
inspect	inspector	inspection
advertise	advertiser	advertisement
deport	deportee	deportation
introduce	introducer	introduction
oppress	oppressor	oppression
compose	composer	composition

Exercises

72.1 Complete the table with other forms of some of the words presented in B opposite. Use a dictionary if necessary. Do not fill the shaded boxes.

verb	person noun	abstract noun
convert		<i>conversion</i>
conduct		
impress		
support		
compress		

72.2 Fill the gaps in the sentences below using words based on the root given in brackets at the end of the sentence.

- 1 The bad news depressed everyone. (PRESS)
- 2 He was _____ from the USA for not having a visa. (PORT)
- 3 The magazine seems to have nothing in it but _____ for cosmetics. (VERT)
- 4 The new manager _____ a lot of new rules on the staff when she took over. (POSE)
- 5 The tax _____ wrote to tell me I owed a lot of money. (SPECT)
- 6 Because of the flood, the traffic was _____ and we had to drive a long way. (VERT)
- 7 Thank you for _____ me to Dino last week. (DUC)
- 8 Tchaikovsky _____ some wonderful ballet music. (POSE)
- 9 Grey, wet weather always _____ me. I love the sun. (PRESS)
- 10 I think we should _____ our tennis game till tomorrow. It's going to rain. (PONE)

72.3 Can you work out the meanings of the underlined words in the sentences below? To help you, here are the meanings of the main Latin prefixes:

intro: *within, inward* **o, ob:** *against* **in, im:** *in, into* **re:** *again, back*
de: *down, from* **ex:** *out* **sub:** *under* **trans:** *across*

- 1 She's a very introspective person and her husband's also a quiet, thoughtful person.
thinks privately about her own thoughts and feelings instead of talking about them to others
- 2 He always seems to oppose everything I suggest. Why can't he agree sometimes?
- 3 I don't think it's healthy to repress your emotions too much. You should just behave naturally.
- 4 Perhaps you can deduce what the word means from the way it's formed. Otherwise, use a dictionary.
- 5 The documentary exposed corruption in high places. Now everyone knows the truth.
- 6 She just thought he looked so funny. She tried hard to suppress a laugh but couldn't.

72.4 Below are some words based on Latin roots and their two-part verb equivalents. Match each word with its synonym. Which in each pair is more formal?

support hold up postpone _____ oppose _____ inspect _____ deposit _____
_____ divert _____

put off look at ~~hold up~~ turn away go against put down

72.5 Over to you

Choose any four words from A opposite. Write sentences which will help you to remember their meanings.

A

What are abstract nouns?

An abstract noun represents an idea, experience or quality rather than an object that you can touch. For example, **advice**, **happiness**, **intention** and **(in)justice** are abstract nouns but *pen*, *bed* and *trousers* are not.

B

Suffixes in abstract nouns

Certain suffixes (see [Unit 70](#)) are used frequently in abstract nouns. The most common are **-ment**, **-ion**, **-ness** and **-ity**. The suffix **-ion** sometimes becomes **-tion**, **-sion**, **-ation** or **-ition**. The suffixes **-ment** and **-ion** are usually used to make verbs into abstract nouns. The suffixes **-ness** and **-ity** are added to adjectives.

Here are some examples of abstract nouns using those suffixes.

achievement	affection	carelessness	activity
adjustment	collection	consciousness	authority
amazement	combination	eagerness	creativity
disagreement	expectation	friendliness	curiosity
improvement	frustration	kindness	generosity
investment	limitation	laziness	hostility
replacement	recession	politeness	popularity
retirement	reduction	weakness	sensitivity

C

Less common suffixes forming abstract nouns

-ship, **-dom**, **-th** and **-hood**

The suffixes **-ship** and **-hood** are usually added to other nouns to form abstract nouns. The suffix **-th** is added to an adjective to form an abstract noun and **-dom** can combine with either a noun or an adjective.

Here are some examples of abstract nouns using those suffixes.

boredom	breadth	adulthood
freedom	depth	brotherhood
kingdom	length	childhood
martyrdom	strength	motherhood
stardom	warmth	neighbourhood
wisdom	width	(wo)manhood

When he left school, Rolf trained as an electrician with a large company. There were two other boys in a similar position and he enjoyed their **companionship**. They developed such a good **relationship** that, once they'd completed their **apprenticeship**, they decided to go into **partnership** together. Now they have set up a business under joint **ownership**. They have taken out **membership** of the Association of Electricians and are beginning to attract a great deal of work.



D

Abstract nouns with no suffix

anger	belief	calm	chance
faith	fear	humour	idea
luck	principle	rage	reason
sense	sight	speed	thought

Common mistakes

The definite article is not normally used before an abstract noun, e.g. *Love is blind.* (NOT ~~The~~ love is blind.) *I can resist everything except temptation.* (NOT I can resist everything except the temptation.)

Exercises

73.1 What is the abstract noun related to each of the following adjectives?

- 1 friendly *friendliness*

2 amazed

3 frustrating

4 kind

5 hostile
- 6 strong

7 angry

8 generous

9 polite

10 happy
- 11 popular

12 weak

13 wise

14 reasonable

15 wide

73.2 Which verbs are related to these abstract nouns? Use a dictionary if necessary.

- 1 collection *collect*

2 recession

3 belief

4 relationship
- 5 strength

6 boredom

7 activity

8 sight
- 9 production

10 ownership

11 expectation

12 adjustment

73.3 Find a synonym with the suffix in brackets for each of the following nouns. Use a thesaurus if necessary.

- 1 animosity (-ity) *hostility*

2 astonishment (-ment)

3 inquisitiveness (-ity)

4 fraternity (-hood)

5 possibility (no suffix)

6 substitution (-ment)

7 fame (-dom)

8 decrease (-tion)
- 9 community (-hood)

10 vision (no suffix)

11 liberty (-dom)

12 fury (no suffix)

13 wealth (-ity)

14 maternity (-hood)

15 possession (-ship)

73.4 Complete each of the quotations with one of the words in the box.

imitation advice injustice kingdom darkness

- 1 *Imitation* is the highest form of flattery.

2 Do not ask of the ignorant.

3 Better to suffer than to commit it.

4 Better to light a candle than to curse the

5 It's easy to govern a but difficult to rule one's family.



73.5 Over to you

Write your own quotations to describe the following abstract nouns. Perhaps you know a saying in your own language that you could translate into English?

- 1 freedom
- 2 love
- 3 life
- 4 curiosity
- 5 imagination

74 Compound adjectives

A Form and meaning

A compound adjective has two parts. It is usually written with a hyphen, e.g. **well-dressed**, **never-ending**, **sky-blue**. Its meaning is usually clear from the combined words. The second part of the adjective is often a present participle (ending in *-ing*) or past participle (ending in *-ed*, except for irregular verbs).

Language help

Some compound adjectives use a hyphen before a noun but not after a verb (e.g. *a well-dressed man* but *He is always well dressed*).

B Personal appearance

A number of compound adjectives describe personal appearance. Here is a rather **far-fetched** description of a person starting from the head down. [hard to believe]

Tom was a **curly-haired**, **suntanned**, **blue-eyed**, **rosy-cheeked**, **thin-lipped**, **broad-shouldered**, **left-handed**, **long-legged** young man, wearing an **open-necked** shirt, **brand-new**, **tight-fitting** jeans and **open-toed** sandals.



C Personality and character

Other compound adjectives describe a person's character.

Melissa was **absent-minded** [forgetful], **easy-going** [relaxed], **good-tempered** [cheerful], **warm-hearted** [kind] and **quick-witted** [quick-thinking/sharp], if perhaps a little **big-headed** [proud of herself], **two-faced** [not sincere], **self-centred** [always thinking about herself instead of others] and **stuck-up** [thinks she's better than other people (informal)] at times.

D Prepositions and particles

Another special group of compound adjectives has a preposition or particle in its second part. The workers' declaration of an **all-out** strike forced management to improve conditions. [total] Once there were fields here but now it's a totally **built-up** area.

That student's parents are very **well-off** [rich] but they don't give him much money and he is always complaining of being **hard-up**. [poor]

I love these shoes and, although they're **worn-out**, I can't throw them away.

This area was once prosperous but it now looks very **run-down**. [in a very bad condition]

E Collocations

Here are some other compound adjectives with typical noun collocations.

air-conditioned rooms **bullet-proof** windows on the President's car **business-class** ticket
cut-price goods in the sales **duty-free** items **handmade** furniture **interest-free** credit
last-minute revision for an exam **long-distance** lorry driver **long-standing** relationship
off-peak train travel [at a time which is less busy] **part-time** job **so-called** expert **sugar-free** diet
time-consuming writing of reports **top-secret** information **world-famous** film star

F Changing compound adjectives

You can vary the compound adjectives listed by changing one part of the adjective.

For example, **curly-haired**, **long-haired**, **red-haired** and **wavy-haired**; **first-hand** (knowledge), **first-class** (ticket) and **first-born** (child).

Exercises

74.1 What compound adjectives from the opposite page can describe ...

- 1 a problem that never ends? a(n) *never-ending* problem
- 2 a shirt whose neck is open and which fits tightly? a(n) _____ , _____ shirt
- 3 a girl who has long legs and brown eyes? a(n) _____ , _____ girl
- 4 very new sandals that have open toes? _____ , _____ sandals
- 5 a boy who dresses well and is brown from the sun? a(n) _____ , _____ boy
- 6 a person who is very relaxed and kind? a(n) _____ , _____ person
- 7 a boy who has curly hair and is sharp? a(n) _____ , _____ boy
- 8 a story that is difficult to believe? a(n) _____ story

74.2 Fill the gaps with the words from the box to form new compound adjectives. Use a dictionary if necessary.

tight	blue	man	broad	brown
bullet	fire	water	loose	green
hand	sugar	second	narrow	business
right	home	absent	duty	left

- 1 *blue*

_____ -eyed
- 2

_____ -proof
- 3

_____ -class
- 4

_____ -minded
- 5

_____ -made
- 6

_____ -free
- 7

_____ -fitting
- 8

_____ -handed

74.3 Complete the sentences using compound adjectives from D and E opposite.

- 1 It was an old, run- *down* hotel that needed modernising. None of the rooms were air- _____ and the so- _____ restaurant was just a coffee bar. Our room had an old, _____ -out carpet that was dirty.
- 2 It's a very _____ -up coast, with hotels and villas everywhere.
- 3 We managed to get a _____ -minute booking for a Mediterranean cruise.
- 4 Off- _____ train travel is much cheaper than travelling at busy times, but long- _____ travel by train can sometimes be more expensive than flying.
- 5 The route of the President's drive to Parliament was _____ secret and he was driven in a bullet- _____ limousine.
- 6 The workers went on _____ -out strike over a long- _____ pay dispute and the airport was closed for three days.
- 7 She used to be quite well- _____ but she lost a lot of money and now she has a _____ -up look about her. She got a part- _____ job to help pay the bills.
- 8 She has to have a sugar- _____ diet but it's very time- _____ trying to make sure everything she buys has no sugar in it.

74.4 Over to you

Which of the adjectives from this unit could you use to describe yourself or your friends or members of your family?