

8 Suffixes

Suffixes can change the word-class and the meaning of the word.

A Common noun suffixes

-er /ə/ is used for the person who does an activity, e.g. **writer, worker, shopper, teacher**.

You can use **-er** with a wide range of verbs to make them into nouns.

Sometimes, the /ə/ suffix is written as **-or** instead of **-er**. It is worth making a special list of these as you meet them, e.g. **actor, operator, sailor, supervisor**.

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

-er and **-ee** can contrast with each other meaning 'person who does something.' (**-er**) and 'person who receives or experiences the action' (**-ee**), e.g. **employer/employee, sender/addressee, payee** (e.g. of a cheque).

-(t)ion /f(ə)n/ is used to make nouns from verbs.

complication pollution reduction alteration donation admission

-ist [person] and **-ism [activity or ideology]**: used for people's politics, beliefs and ideologies, and sometimes their profession (compare with **-er/-or** professions above), e.g. **Marxism, Buddhism, journalism, anarchist, physicist, terrorist**.

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

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

B Adjective suffix

-able/-ible /əbl/ with verbs, means 'can be done'.

drinkable washable readable recognizable countable forgivable

Examples with **-ible**: **edible** (can be eaten) **flexible** (can be bent)

C Verbs

-ise (or -ize) makes verbs from adjectives, e.g. **modernise, commercialise, industrialise**.

D Other suffixes that can help you recognise the word class

-ment: (nouns) excitement enjoyment replacement

-ity: (nouns) flexibility productivity scarcity

-hood: (abstract nouns especially family terms) childhood motherhood

-ship: (abstract nouns especially status) friendship partnership membership

-ive: (adjectives) passive productive active

-al: (adjectives) brutal legal (nouns) refusal arrival

-ous: (adjectives) delicious outrageous furious

-ful: (adjectives) forgetful hopeful useful

-less: (adjectives) useless harmless cloudless

-ify: (verbs) beautify purify terrify

Note: the informal suffix **-ish**, which 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**.

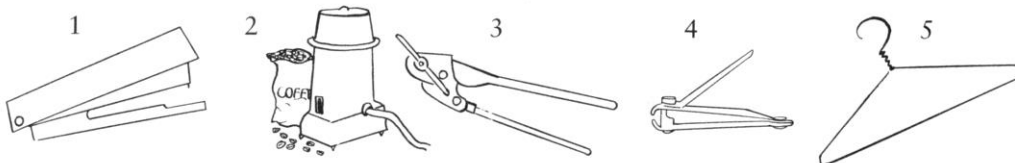
Exercises

8.1 The *-er/-or*, *-ee* and *-ist* suffixes. Use the suffixes to give the names of the following.

Example: A person who plays jazz on the piano. *a jazz pianist*

- 1 The thing that wipes rain off your car windscreen.
- 2 A person who plays classical violin.
- 3 A person who takes professional photographs. (N.B. pronunciation)
- 4 A person who acts in amateur theatre.
- 5 The person to whom a cheque is made out.
- 6 A machine for washing dishes.
- 7 A person who donates their kidneys upon their death.
- 8 The person to whom a letter is addressed.

8.2 Each picture is of an object ending in *-er*. Can you name them?



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

8.4 Do these words mean a thing, a person, or both?

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 a cooker | 3 a ticket-holder | 5 a cleaner | 7 a drinker |
| 2 a typewriter | 4 a record player | 6 a smoker | |

8.5 Spelling changes. Rewrite each sentence by changing the underlined words, using a suffix from the left-hand page. Make any spelling changes needed.

- 1 Most of his crimes can be forgiven.
Most of his crimes are
- 2 The Club refuses to admit anyone not wearing a tie.
The Club refuses to anyone not wearing a tie.
- 3 Her only fault is that she is lazy.
Her only fault is
- 4 This firm has produced a lot in recent years.
This firm has been very in recent years.
- 5 I found the book very easy and pleasant to read.
I found the book very

8.6 Can you think of anything in your country which should be *nationalised* (e.g. banks, steel works), *standardised*, *modernised*, *computerised* or *centralised*?

8.7 Which word is the odd one out in each group and why?

- 1 brotherhood neighbourhood manhood priesthood
- 2 hair-restorer plant-holder step-ladder oven-cleaner
- 3 appointment involvement compliment arrangement
- 4 tearful spiteful dreadful handful
- 5 worship kinship friendship partnership

9 Prefixes

A Prefixes are often used to give adjectives a negative meaning. The opposite of 'comfortable' is 'uncomfortable', the opposite of 'convenient' is 'inconvenient' and the opposite of 'similar' is 'dissimilar'. Other examples are 'unjust', 'inedible', 'disloyal'. Unfortunately, there is no easy way of knowing which prefix any adjective will use to form its opposite. When you learn a new adjective note down whether it has an opposite formed with a prefix and, if so, what it is.

Note:

- **in-** becomes **im-** before a root beginning with 'm' or 'p', e.g. **immature**, **impatient**, **impartial**, **improbable**. Similarly **in-** becomes **ir-** before a word beginning with 'r', and **il-** before a word beginning with 'l', e.g. **irreplaceable**, **irreversible**, **illegal**, **illegible**, **illiterate**.
- The prefix **in-** does not always have a negative meaning – often it gives the idea of inside or into, e.g. **internal**, **import**, **insert**, **income**.

B Although it is mainly adjectives which are made negative by prefixes, **un-** and **dis-** can also form the opposites of verbs too, e.g. appear **disappear**. The prefix is used here to reverse the action of the verb. Here are some more examples: **disagree**, **disapprove**, **disbelieve**, **disconnect**, **discredit**, **dislike**, **dismount**, **disprove**, **disqualify**, **unbend**, **undo**, **undress**, **unfold**, **unload**, **unlock**, **unveil**, **unwrap**, **unzip**.

C Many other prefixes are used in English. Here is a list of prefixes which are useful in helping you to understand unfamiliar words. Some of these words are used with a hyphen. Check in a dictionary if you're not sure.

<i>prefix</i>	<i>meaning</i>	<i>examples</i>
anti	against	anti-war antisocial antibiotic
auto	of or by oneself	autograph auto-pilot autobiography
bi	two, twice	bicycle bi-monthly biannual bilingual
ex	former	ex-wife ex-student ex-president
ex	out of	extract exhale excommunicate
micro	small	micro-computer microwave microscopic
mis	badly/wrongly	misunderstand mistranslate misinform
mono	one/single	monotonous monologue monogamous
multi	many	multi-national multi-purpose multi-racial
over	too much	overdo overtired oversleep overeat
post	after	postwar postgraduate post-revolutionary
pro	in favour of	pro-government pro-revolutionary
pseudo	false	pseudo-scientific pseudo-intellectual
re	again or back	retype reread replace rewind
semi	half	semicircular semi-final semi-detached
sub	under	subway submarine subdivision
under	not enough	underworked underused undercooked

Exercises

- 9.1** Practise using words with negative prefixes. Contradict the following statements in the same way as the example. Not all the words you need are on the left-hand page.

Example: He's a very honest man. *I don't agree. I think he's dishonest.*

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 I'm sure she's discreet. | 6 He's very efficient. |
| 2 I always find him very sensitive. | 7 I always find her responsible. |
| 3 It's a convincing argument. | 8 He seems grateful for our help. |
| 4 That's a very relevant point. | 9 I'm sure she's loyal to the firm. |
| 5 She's always obedient. | 10 He's a tolerant person. |

- 9.2** Which negative adjective fits each of the following definitions?

- 1 means not having a husband or wife.
- 2 means impossible to eat.
- 3 means unable to read or write.
- 4 means not having a job.
- 5 means fair in giving judgement, not favouring one side.
- 6 means unable to be replaced.

- 9.3** Choose a negative verb from B to fit each of the sentences below. Put it in the correct form.

Example: The runner was *disqualified* after a blood test.

- 1 Children (and adults) love parcels at Christmas time.
- 2 I almost always find that I with his opinion.
- 3 I'm sure he's lying but it's going to be hard to his story.
- 4 After a brief speech the Queen the new statue.
- 5 It took the removal men an hour our things from the van.
- 6 His phone was because he didn't pay his last bill.

- 9.4** Answer the following questions. The answers are all in the table opposite.

- 1 What kind of oven cooks things particularly fast?
- 2 What kind of drug can help somebody with an infection?
- 3 What kind of company has branches in many countries?
- 4 How does a passenger aeroplane normally fly?
- 5 What is a student who is studying for a second degree?
- 6 What means 'underground railway' in the US and 'underground passage' in the UK?

- 9.5** Using the table opposite construct words or phrases to replace the underlined words.

Example: He's in favour of the American approach. *He's pro-American.*

- 1 The BBC tries to avoid pronouncing foreign words incorrectly.
- 2 Most people say they have to work too hard but are paid too little.
- 3 He dated his cheque with a date that was later than the real date.
- 4 She's still on good terms with the man who used to be her husband.
- 5 He made so many mistakes in the letter that he had to write it again.

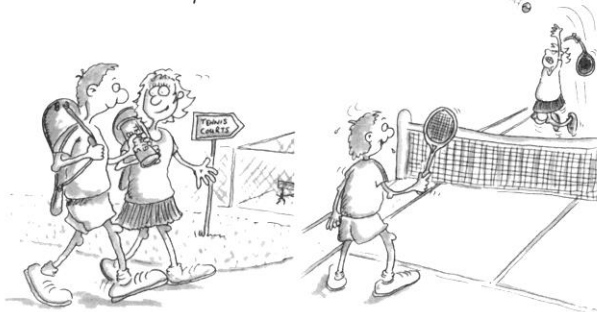
- 9.6** Think of two more examples for each prefix in C opposite.

Grammar

Stay cool

Clauses and linkers of contrast

5 > Complete the sentences with *although*, *however* or *in spite of*.



Although they're best friends, they're very competitive.

- 1 They didn't visit us, promising to come.
- 2 she's a very talented pianist, she finds it difficult to play in public.
- 3 There was nothing suspicious in his behaviour., I didn't really trust him.
- 4 We were only in Chicago for one day., we had a great time!
- 5 he'd told her the relationship was over, she still thought they could get back together again.
- 6 I wanted to play football this morning., I didn't wake up till midday.
- 7 They recognised him his disguise.
- 8 her strong northern accent, I understand everything she says.
- 9 He's a very gentle person, his appearance.
- 10 I really liked *The Thirty-Nine Steps* the story was quite complicated.

Go for it

Clauses and linkers of contrast

6 > Rewrite sentences 1 to 7 in Exercise 5 using the words in brackets.

- 1 (although) They didn't visit us, although they'd promised to come.
- 2 (despite)
- 3 (although)
- 4 (in spite of)
- 5 (however)
- 6 (although)
- 7 (although)

What's wrong?

7 > Correct the mistakes.

I like living here, ^{although} ~~despite~~ there isn't much to do in the evening.



- 1 I'm afraid the skirt's a bit to tight.
- 2 Dublin's a beautiful city however it's quite expensive.
- 3 Our accommodations were awful.
- 4 In spite of it is a beautiful place, it's not really a tourist destination.
- 5 I buy all my books from the local library.

Communication

Stay cool

8 Complete the dialogue.

You: I'd like to try this sweatshirt on, please.

Assistant: Here you are. ¹..... good?

You: Well, it's a bit baggy. ²..... size?

Assistant: Yes, we have. Here's a medium. ³..... on?

You: It's fine. ⁴.....

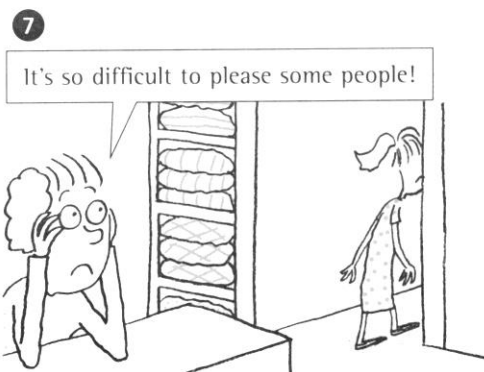
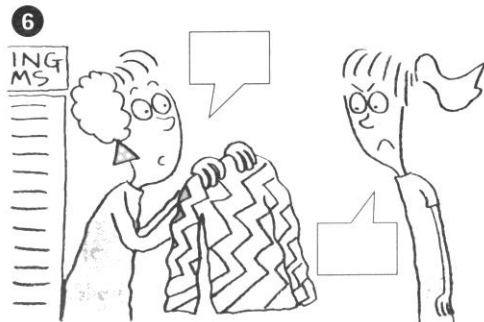
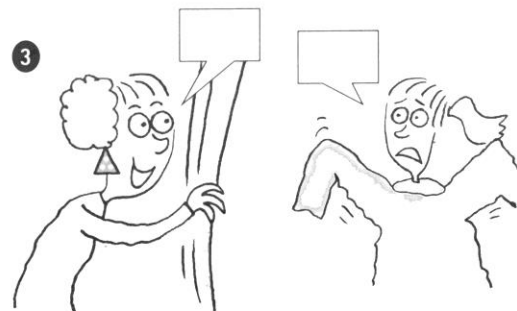
Assistant: How ⁵..... ?

You: By credit card.



Go for it

9 Write a conversation in your notebook using the pictures.



B > Number the sentences in the correct order to make a telephone conversation.

10 / Your friend Rick needs help. In your

Reading

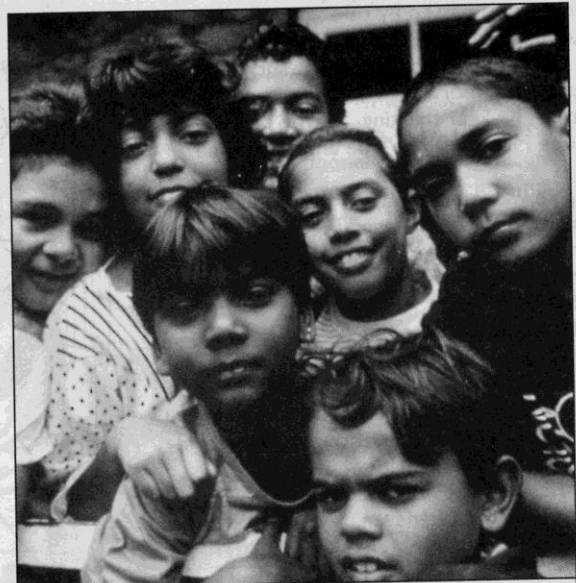
Television comes to St Helena

St Helena has had television since 1995. What effect has television had on people, especially young people, on the island? They were happy and friendly before TV arrived, and the children were the best-behaved in the world. Have they become violent, nasty and jealous?

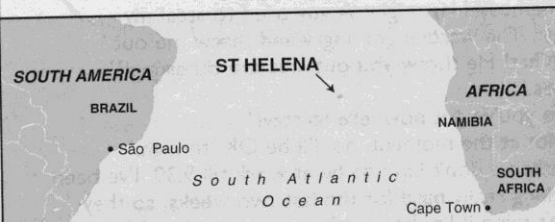
A team of researchers has been trying to find the answers to these questions. Their project has not finished yet, but they have already found that young children in St Helena are at least as well-behaved now as they were before TV came to the island. And according to psychologist Dr Tony Charlton, who has been studying the effects of TV on the children of St Helena, their behaviour has actually improved: they are less likely to fight and tease each other. They have already gained 'enormous educational benefit' and the older students have enjoyed seeing the outside world for the first time, rather than reading about it or hearing about it on the radio.

We often read in the newspapers that people are violent and badly-behaved because they have seen violence and bad behaviour on TV. Television, however, has actually been contributing to the social education of the children of St Helena. It has shown them what is happening in the world and how other people live.

According to Dr Charlton, it is easier to blame TV rather than ourselves for things that are wrong in our society.



Factfile



- St Helena is a mountainous island with narrow valleys. It is in the South Atlantic Ocean between Africa and South America.
- The Portuguese explorer Juan da Nova Castella discovered St Helena on 21st May 1502. It became British in 1651.
- There are 5,644 St Helenians. Fourteen hundred of them live in Jamestown, which is the only town and port.
- Temperatures in Jamestown, the capital, range from 21°C to 32°C in summer and from 15°C to 26°C in winter.
- There are two hotels and one bank in Jamestown.
- St Helena Bay is excellent for diving. Ocean swimming is dangerous but there are some natural pools where it is safe to swim. Fishing is very popular. The best catches are barracuda and tuna – delicious grilled!

Comprehension

Stay cool/Move on

1 > Write words from the text for the definitions.

- aggressive *violent*
- 1 people who collect
information
- 2 a person who studies
people's minds
- 3 got better
- 4 make fun of
- 5 a group of people
living together

2 > Complete the information with two facts for each category.

ST HELENA

Location *In the South Atlantic Ocean*

Landscape

Climate

Population

History

Tourism



Go for it

3 > Answer the questions.

Where is St Helena?

It's in the South Atlantic Ocean between Africa and South America.

- 1 When did people in St Helena first have television?
.....
- 2 What was special about children in St Helena before that time?
.....
- 3 What has Dr Charlton been doing in St Helena?
.....

Write questions for these answers.

- 4
.....
No, it hasn't. It's still going on.
- 5
.....
No, they haven't. Their behaviour has improved.
- 6
.....
It's been important because they've been learning a lot about the outside world.

Writing

Stay cool

4 > In your notebook, write a letter to Yasmin, a teenager in St Helena.

Ask her:

- how she spent her time before TV arrived.
- what her favourite programmes are.
- what she's been watching recently.
- what she thinks about the introduction of TV.

Tell her about the programmes you watch.

Move on/Go for it

5 > Imagine Yasmin's answer. In your notebook, write her reply to your letter.