

Word Formation

To change a word into the other or to form a new word by joining two words, is called word formation.

Primary Words

The word that has no prefix or suffix is called primary word. e.g. invite, height, justice, college, friend, happy, knowledge, etc.

Compound Words

By joining two words, a compound word is formed.

e.g. grand + mother — grandmother
news + paper — newspaper
post + man — postman
rain + fall — rainfall

1. By Adding a Noun to the Other

air + craft — aircraft
head + master — headmaster
moon + light — moonlight
shop + keeper — shopkeeper
radio + set — radio-set
steam + engine — steam-engine

2. By Adding an Adjective Before a Noun

long + jump — long jump
high + school — high school
sweet + heart — sweetheart
mad + man — mad man

short + hand — short hand

black + board — blackboard

3. By Adding a Verb Before a Noun

hang + man — hangman

pass + port — passport

pick + pocket — pick-pocket

break + fast — breakfast

4. By Adding a Noun After Gerund

drawing + room — drawing room

spelling + book — spelling book

writing + table — writing table

blotting + paper — blotting paper

walking + stick — walking stick

looking + glass — looking glass

5. By Adding a Noun After an Adverb

down + fall — downfall

after + thought — afterthought

6. By Adding an Adverb After Verb

draw + back — drawback

fare + well — farewell

7. By Adding an Adverb Before a Verb

out + set — Outset

in + come — income

up + keep — upkeep

out + look — outlook

Prefix The part that is added before the primary word to change its meaning is called prefix.

e.g. dis + appear	—	disappear
dis + agree	—	disagree
en + circle	—	encircle
un + able	—	unable

Use of Prefix

Show opposite words

(i) dis

dis + advantage	—	disadvantage
dis + agree	—	disagree
dis + comfort	—	discomfort
dis + connect	—	disconnect
dis + satisfaction	—	dissatisfaction
dis + like	—	dislike
dis + honour	—	dishonour
dis + please	—	displease
dis + agreement	—	disagreement
dis + satisfy	—	dissatisfy
dis + ability	—	disability
dis + allow	—	disallow
dis + honest	—	dishonest
dis + obey	—	disobey
dis + appear	—	disappear
dis + believe	—	disbelieve

(ii) de

de + compose	—	decompose
de + promote	—	depromote
de + value	—	devalue
de + fame	—	defame

(iii) non

non + violence	—	nonviolence
non + payment	—	nonpayment
non + cooperation	—	noncooperation
non + sense	—	nonsense

(iv) un

un + fold	—	unfold
un + necessary	—	unnecessary
un + kind	—	unkind
un + do	—	undo
un + happy	—	unhappy
un + lock	—	unlock

(v) in

in + discipline	—	indiscipline
in + accurate	—	inaccurate
in + efficiency	—	inefficiency
in + visible	—	invisible

(vi) il

il + logical	—	illogical
il + legitimate	—	illegitimate
il + legal	—	illegal
il + legible	—	illegible

(vii) im

im + patient	—	impatient
im + possible	—	impossible
im + polite	—	impolite
im + practicable	—	impracticable
im + proper	—	improper
im + pure	—	impure

(viii) ir

ir + relevant	—	irrelevant
ir + religious	—	irreligious
ir + responsible	—	irresponsible
ir + regular	—	irregular

2. Show Number

(i) mono

mono + syllabic	—	monosyllabic
mono + action	—	monoaction

(ii) bi

bi + annual	—	biannual
bi + weekly	—	biweekly

(iii) tri

tri + cycle	—	tricycle
tri + angle	—	triangle
tri + colour	—	tricolour
tri + wheeler	—	tricycle

(iv) multi

multi + millionaire	—	multimillionaire
multi + purpose	—	multipurpose

3. Show Attitude

(i) pro

pro + american	—	pro-american
pro + communist	—	pro-communist

(ii) anti

anti + oxidant	—	antioxidant
anti + biotics	—	antibiotics
anti + social	—	antisocial
anti + government	—	antigovernment

4. Show Time and Preposition

(i) ex

ex + chairman	—	ex-chairman
ex + mayor	—	ex-mayor

(ii) re

re + organise	—	reorganise
re + call	—	recall
re + write	—	rewrite

(iii) fore

fore + cast	—	forecast
fore + tell	—	foretell

(iv) post

post + graduate	—	post-graduate
post + war	—	post-war

(v) pre

pre + pay	—	prepay
pre + fix	—	prefix

5. Show Time and Degree

(i) sub

sub + normal	—	sub-normal
sub + inspector	—	sub-inspector

(ii) extra

extra + vagant	—	extravagant
extra + ordinary	—	extraordinary

(iii) over

over + estimate	—	overestimate
over + do	—	overdo

(iv) semi

semi + final	—	semi-final
semi + circle	—	semi-circle

(v) out

out + grow	—	outgrow
out + live	—	outlive

(vi) under

under + stand	—	understand
under + estimate	—	underestimate

6. Used to Change Parts of Speech

	Noun	Verb	Adjective	Verb
em	power	empower	bitter	embitter
be	fool	befool	little	belittle
en	courage	encourage	able	enable

Suffix The part that is added in the end of a word to change its meaning is called suffix.

agree + ment	—	agreement
friend + ship	—	friendship
object + ion	—	objection
manage + ment	—	management

Use of Suffix

1. Making noun from verb.

Verb + Suffix	—	Noun
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(i) y

recover + y	—	recovery
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discover + y — discovery
 deliver + y — delivery
 enter + y — entry

(ii) **al**

propose + al — proposal
 renew + al — renewal
 approve + al — approval
 dismiss + al — dismissal
 refuse + al — refusal
 arrive + al — arrival

(iii) **age**

waste + age — wastage
 carry + age — carriage
 leak + age — leakage
 pass + age — passage
 break + age — breakage
 marry + age — marriage

(iv) **ment**

banish + ment — banishment
 announce + ment — announcement
 agree + ment — agreement
 arrange + ment — arrangement
 amaze + ment — amazement
 appoint + ment — appointment

(v) **ssion , sion**

confuse + sion — confusion
 permit + ssion — permission
 admit + ssion — admission
 posse + ssion — possession

(vi) **ure, ture**

close + ure — closure
 please + ure — pleasure
 mix + ture — mixture
 depart + ure — departure

(vii) **ence**

interfere + ence — interference
 differ + ence — difference
 reside + ence — residence
 occur + ence — occurrence
 insist + ence — insistence
 depend + ence — dependence

(viii) **ance**

endure + ance — endurance
 assure + ance — assurance
 perform + ance — performance
 enter + ance — entrance
 assist + ance — assistance
 avoid + ance — avoidance
 hinder + ance — hindrance
 attend + ance — attendance
 appear + ance — appearance
 inherit + ance — inheritance

(ix) **ation, tion, ion**

confirm + ation — confirmation
 combine + ation — combination
 admire + ation — admiration
 construct + ion — construction
 contribute + ion — contribution
 connect + ion — connection

2. Adjective into Noun

Adjective + Suffix — Noun

(i) **dom**

free + dom — freedom
 wise + dom — wisdom

(ii) **acy**

private + acy — privacy
 vacant + acy — vacancy
 adequate + acy — adequacy
 supreme + acy — supremacy

(iii) **ity**

noble + ity	—	nobility
formal + ity	—	formality
able + ity	—	ability
real + ity	—	reality
popular + ity	—	popularity
active + ity	—	activity
punctual + ity	—	punctuality
equal + ity	—	equality

(iv) **ce**

obedient + ce	—	obedience
absent + ce	—	absence
innocent + ce	—	innocence
abundant + ce	—	abundance

(v) **ty**

royal + ty	—	royalty
cruel + ty	—	cruelty
certain + ty	—	certainty
loyal + ty	—	loyalty

(vi) **ness**

firm + ness	—	firmness
shy + ness	—	shyness
heavy + ness	—	heaviness
clever + ness	—	cleverness
eager + ness	—	eagerness
frank + ness	—	frankness
fresh + ness	—	freshness
busy + ness	—	business

(viii) **By Other Suffix**

moist + ure	—	moisture
just + ice	—	justice
short + age	—	shortage
perfect + ion	—	perfection

3. Noun into Adjective

Noun + Suffix — Adjective

(i) **ful**

hope + ful	—	hopeful
beauty + ful	—	beautiful
faith + ful	—	faithful
use + ful	—	useful
duty + ful	—	dutiful
harm + ful	—	harmful
truth + ful	—	truthful
peace + ful	—	peaceful

(ii) **ous**

labour + ous	—	laborious
study + ous	—	studious
nerve + ous	—	nervous
glory + ous	—	glorious
courage + ous	—	courageous
danger + ous	—	dangerous

(iii) **al**

nation + al	—	national
magic + al	—	magical
person + al	—	personal
condition + al	—	conditional
accident + al	—	accidental
origin + al	—	original
navy + al	—	naval

(iv) **able**

value + able	—	valuable
favour + able	—	favourable
memory + able	—	memorable
desire + able	—	desirable
honour + able	—	honourable

(v) **less**

help + less	—	helpless
care + less	—	careless

(vi) **y**

worth + y	—	worthy
storm + y	—	stormy
air + y	—	airy
thirst + y	—	thirsty
ease + y	—	easy
silver + y	—	silvery
flower + y	—	flowery
milk + y	—	milky
star + y	—	starry
hunger + y	—	hungry
blood + y	—	bloody

(vii) **By other suffix**

gold + en	—	golden
wool + len	—	woollen
India + an	—	Indian
six + th	—	sixth
fool + ish	—	foolish
quarrel + some	—	quarrelsome
child + ish	—	childish
talk + ative	—	talkative
machine + cal	—	mechanical
earth + en	—	earthen

4. Noun into Verb

Noun + suffix	—	Verb
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(i) **le**

hand + le	—	handle
spark + le	—	sparkle

(ii) **ze , ize**

sympathy + ise	—	sympathise
patron + ise	—	patronise
economy + ise	—	economise
critic + ise	—	criticise

(iii) **en**

light + en	—	lighten
haste + en	—	hasten
fright + en	—	frighten
length + en	—	lengthen

(iv) **fy , ify**

terror + ify	—	terrify
test + ify	—	testify
class + ify	—	classify
beauty + ify	—	beautify

(v) **By Other Changes**

belief	—	believe
blood	—	bleed
sale	—	sell
breath	—	breathe
bath	—	bathe
life	—	live
service	—	serve
food	—	feed

5. Adjective into Verb

Adjective + Suffix — Verb

(i) **ify**

simple + ify	—	simplify
pure + ify	—	purify
clear + ify	—	clarify
just + ify	—	justify

(ii) **en**

short + en	—	shorten
thick + en	—	thicken
wide + en	—	widen
quick + en	—	quicken
sweet + en	—	sweeten
black + en	—	blacken

(iii) **ise**

special + ise	—	specialise
real + ise	—	realise
equal + ise	—	equalise
civil + ise	—	civilise

(iv) **By Other Changes**

full	—	fill,	clean	—	cleanse,
public	—	publish,	low	—	lower,

Practice Exercise

Directions (Q. Nos 1-10) *In the following questions select the most suitable option.*

1. The suitable prefix for the word 'appear'.
(a) in (b) dis (c) un (d) de
2. The suitable prefix for the word 'pure'
(a) im (b) ir (c) dis (d) un
3. The suitable prefix for the word 'legal'
(a) im (b) un
(c) ir (d) il
4. The suitable suffix for the word 'waste'
(a) ment (b) y
(c) ure (d) age
5. The suitable suffix for the word 'private'
(a) ity (b) ous
(c) acy (d) ness
6. The noun form of the verb 'enter' is
(a) entry (b) enterful
(c) entering (d) entered
7. The verb form of the noun 'hand' is
(a) handy (b) handful
(c) handle (d) handing
8. The noun form of the adjective 'noble' is
(a) disnoble (b) nobleness
(c) nobility (d) nobleful
9. The verb form of the adjective 'just' is
(a) justing (b) justify
(c) judgement (d) justice
10. The noun form of the verb 'leak'
(a) leakage (b) leaking
(c) leaky (d) disleak

Directions (Q. Nos 11-20) *Find the suitable match of the following word to make a meaningful word*

11. Shop +
(a) man (b) guard (c) taker (d) keeper
12. + port
(a) River (b) Pass (c) Car (d) Sun
13. + honour
(a) Mis (b) De (c) Dis (d) Non
14. Agee +
(a) ness (b) ful
(c) ence (d) ment
15. Nation +
(a) al (b) ness
(c) ment (d) ance
16. Noun form of 'innocent' is
(a) innocentness (b) innocence
(c) innocention (d) innocency
17. Verb form of 'simple' is
(a) simplicity (b) simpling
(c) simplify (d) simpleness
18. Adjective form of 'man' is
(a) manness (b) manly
(c) manful (d) manish
19. Noun form of 'believe' is
(a) belief (b) believece
(c) believeness (d) believeful
20. Abstract noun of 'fool' is
(a) foolish (b) foolness
(c) foolishness (d) foolishment

Answers

1	(b)	2	(a)	3	(d)	4	(d)	5	(c)	6	(a)	7	(c)	8	(c)	9	(b)	10	(a)
11	(d)	12	(b)	13	(c)	14	(d)	15	(a)	16	(b)	17	(c)	18	(b)	19	(b)	20	(c)