

WEEK 6

# SUFFIXES

UNIT 6E

Word  
Building



# Lesson objectives

To build word families through suffixes

To use multiple suffixes to build more complex words

A **suffix** is a letter or group of letters added at the end of a word which makes a new word.

Often, the suffix causes a spelling change to the original word.

Building word families greatly increases your vocabulary knowledge. For example, adding the noun suffix *-ment* to a verb such as *involve* results in *involvement*; adding an adjective suffix results in *involved*; adding a prefix for the opposite results in *uninvolved*. These changes give you four words from one headword. The headword can be a verb (e.g. *achieve*), noun (e.g. *system*), or adjective (e.g. *private*). Longer words can be built from headwords such as these, for example: *achievement, achievable; systematic, systematize; privately, privatize*. In general, suffixes show a grammatical change to the word, while many prefixes have more meaning, e.g. *bio-* (life).

# TASK 1 Building word families through suffixes

- 1 Change headwords **1-10** into adjectives by selecting from the list of adjective suffixes. You may have to add, delete, or change some letters at the end of the headwords. Note also that some of the words have more than one adjective form. If you are not sure, make a guess and then check in your dictionary.

**Example:** *attract* (v) → *attractive* (adj)

-al -ent -ful -ive -ous

1 attract

3 generate

5 influence

7 invent

9 repel

2 connect

4 infect

6 interact

8 respect

10 truth

## Answers

2 connective 3 generative 4 infectious / -ive

5 influential 6 interactive 7 inventive

8 respectful / -ful 9 repellent 10 truthful

## Task 2

2 Work out the word class for each word **1-10**. Then change the words into nouns by selecting from the list of noun suffixes. Note that some of the words have more than one noun form. Check the forms in your dictionary.

**Example:** *brave* (adj) → *bravery* (n)

-age -ant -er -ery -ity -ism -ment -ness -ship -tion

1 brave	3 connective	5 infirm	7 rough	9 store
2 create	4 develop	6 mature	8 smooth	10 treat

Answers

2 create (v) → creation; creativity; creativeness  
3 connective (adj) → connection; connectivity  
4 develop (v) → developer; development 5 infirm (adj) → infirmity 6 mature (adj) → maturation; maturity 7 rough (adj) → roughness 8 smooth (adj) → smoothness 9 store (v/n) → storage 10 treat (v/n) → treatment

# Task 3

Change words **1-10** into verbs by selecting from the list of verb suffixes. Make any other minor changes necessary. Note also how the pronunciation sometimes changes.

**Example:** *category* (n) → *categorize* (v)

-ize   -ate   -ify

**1** category

**3** different

**5** electric

**7** international

**9** public

**2** carbon

**4** diverse

**6** intense

**8** private

**10** subsidy

## Answers

**2** carbonate   **3** differentiate   **4** diversify

**5** electrify   **6** intensify   **7** internationalize

**8** privatize   **9** publicize   **10** subsidize

## Task 4

4 Decide which words from 1.1–1.3 can be made into adverbs by using the adverb suffixes: *-ly* / *-ally*.

## Answers

- 1 attractively, generatively, infectively, influentially, interactively, inventively, respectively / -fully, truthfully
- 2 bravely, creatively, developmentally, infirmly, maturely, roughly, smoothly
- 3 differently, diversely, intensely, internationally, privately, publicly

1 Academic vocabulary is characterized by the heavy use of *affixes* (prefixes and suffixes) to build more complex concepts. Look at how the noun *industry* can be built up into a more complex noun by adding several further suffixes.

**suffixes**

headword	adjective	verb	noun	= resulting noun
<i>industry</i>	+ <i>al</i>	+ <i>ize</i>	+ <i>tion</i>	<i>industrialization</i>

2 Use the adjective, noun, and verb suffixes in Task 1 to build longer nouns and adjectives from words **1-10**.

1 connect

3 drama

5 interact

7 national

9 subsidy

2 develop

4 electric

6 international

8 standard

10 urban

Answers

- 1 connectivity    2 developmental    3 dramatization  
 4 electrification    5 interactivity    6 internationalization  
 7 nationalization    8 standardization    9 subsidization  
 10 urbanization



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