

Prefixes

1 Matching

Make adjectives by matching the suffixes and stems where possible. Then find a noun for each from the list on the right.

Prefixes	Stems	Nouns	
un		cheque	meat
mis		envelope	phone card
dis	cooked	expression	sports facilities
re	dated	factory	staff
pre	paid	gift voucher	ticket
post	used	leave	word
under		letter	work
over		loan	worker
		meal	

2 Gap-fill and discussion

Complete each question with a suitable prefix. Then choose five questions at random to ask your partner.

- Which professions in your country are _____ paid?
Do you think there should be limits on how much people earn?
- What sorts of food should you never eat _____ cooked?
Have you ever had food poisoning from eating _____ cooked food?
- Have you ever done _____ paid work for charity?
- Are there any _____ used buildings near to your home or workplace?
- Do you have a mobile account or do you use a _____ paid card?
- Which words or expressions in your language do you think are _____ used?
- Which government services are _____ used in your country?
- Have you ever written a(n) _____ dated cheque?
- What kind of workers in your country are _____ paid? Do they ever go on strike?

Suffixes

1 Table completion

Make as many words as you can, adding prefixes to the left and suffixes to the right of the stems below.

stem	adjectives	nouns	verbs
help			
kind			
literate			
loyal			
mature			
popular			
rely			
sense			
success			
thought			
understand			
use			

Suffixes

2 Practice - sentence completion

Use the correct forms of words in the table to complete the sentences.

help	loyal	rely
kind	mature	sense
literate	popular	success
thought	understand	use

1. The staff in the shop were very _____ and I soon found what I wanted.
2. We have a customer _____ programme. You get a 10 per cent discount for every \$100 you spend.
3. There's a train service to the city centre but it's not very _____ as there are often delays.
4. I thanked her for her _____ in helping out when my mother was ill.
5. The school will not tolerate this kind of _____ behavior.
6. I think her anger is quite _____ - I would be angry myself in that situation.
7. I've just heard the weather forecast and I don't think it would be _____ to go ahead with the barbecue.
8. All primary schools teach basic _____.
9. The new sales tax was scrapped due to its _____.
10. The government has had some _____ in reducing inflation, which has fallen to 3%.
11. This app is completely _____! I can't get it to work at all.
12. I think it was rather _____ of her to announce the party just after the funeral.

Suffixes

3 Practice - brainstorming

Try to find two beginnings for each of the suffixes below. What parts of speech are they?

-ion	-less	-ment	-ful
-ness	-able	-ist	-ical
-er	-ous	-cy	-ance/ence
-(i)ty	-ate	-al	-ive

Prefixes and Suffixes

Answers

Prefixes

1 Matching

un	cooked	meat
	dated	cheque
	paid	leave , staff, work, worker
	used	envelope, phone card, ticket, gift voucher
mis	used	word
dis	used	factory
re	paid	loan
	used	envelope
pre	cooked	meal
	paid	gift voucher, phone card
post	dated	cheque
under	cooked	meat, meal
	paid	staff, work, worker
	used	sports facilities
over	cooked	meat, meal
	paid	staff, work, worker
	used	expression, word, sports facilities

Prefixes

2 Gap-fill and discussion

Complete each question with a suitable prefix. Then choose five questions at random to ask your partner.

1. Which professions in your country are **over**paid? Do you think there should be limits on how much people earn?
2. What sorts of food should you never eat **un / under** cooked? Have you ever had food poisoning from eating **un / under** cooked food? (Use the same prefix for both gaps).
3. Have you ever done **un**paid work for charity?
4. Are there any **dis**used buildings near to your home or workplace?
5. Do you have a mobile account or do you use a **pre**paid card?
6. Which words or expressions in your language do you think are **over/mis**used?
7. Which government services are **over/under**used in your country?
8. Have you ever written a(n) **un/post**dated cheque?
9. What kind of workers in your country are **under**paid? Do they ever go on strike?

Suffixes

1 Table completion

stem	adjectives	nouns	verbs
help	unhelpful	helpful, helpless helpfulness helplessness	help
kind	unkind	kindness unkindness	
literate	illiterate	literacy illiteracy	
loyal	disloyal	loyalty disloyalty	
mature	immature	maturity immaturity	mature
popular	unpopular	popularity unpopularity	popularize
rely	unreliable	reliable reliability unreliability	rely
sense	sensitive insensitive senseless sensible	senselessness sensibility sensitivity insensitivity	sense
success	successful unsuccessful	success	succeed
thought	thoughtful thoughtless	thought	think
understand	understandable	understanding	understand
use	useful useless used unused disused	usefulness uselessness	use misuse

Suffixes

2 Practice - sentence completion

1. The staff in the shop were very **helpful** and I soon found what I wanted.
2. We have a customer **loyalty** programme. You get a 10 per cent discount for every \$100 you spend.
3. There's a train service to the city centre but it's not very **reliable** as there are often delays.
4. I thanked her for her **kindness** in helping out when my mother was ill.
5. The school will not tolerate this kind of **immature** behavior.
6. I think her anger is quite **understandable** - I would be angry myself in that situation.
7. I've just heard the weather forecast and I don't think it would be **sensible** to go ahead with the barbecue.
8. All primary schools teach basic **literacy**.
9. The new sales tax was scrapped due to its **unpopularity**.
10. The government has had some **success** in reducing inflation, which has fallen to 3%.
11. This app is completely **useless**! I can't get it to work at all.
12. I think it was rather **thoughtless** of her to announce the party just after the funeral.

Prefixes and Suffixes

Answers

3 Practice - brainstorming

Examples	Notes*
region station relation	<i>Nouns</i>
helpless harmless useless	<i>Adjectives made from nouns</i>
enjoyment employment fulfilment	<i>Nouns made from verbs</i>
beautiful careful dreadful	<i>Adjectives made from nouns</i>
happiness sadness tiredness	<i>Nouns made from adjectives</i>
breakable doable drinkable	<i>Adjectives made from verbs</i>
chemist capitalist dentist	<i>Nouns for people who specialize in or believe in something, beliefs, systems etc.</i>
clerical electrical musical	<i>Adjectives made from nouns ending -ic</i>
baker teacher printer	<i>Nouns made from verbs – used for somebody or something that does something</i>
courteous dangerous famous	<i>Adjectives made from nouns</i>
accuracy efficiency fluency	<i>Nouns made from adjectives</i>
conference experience independence	<i>Nouns</i>
ability majority quality	<i>Nouns</i>
create calculate investigate	<i>Verbs</i>
social medical usual	<i>Adjectives</i>
active creative sensitive	<i>Adjectives</i>

* The notes indicate what is usually true but in some cases there may be exceptions.