## WORD FORMATION

## There are many rules on how to make new words from the same root, by adding different suffixes or prefixes to it (e.g. decide, decision, decisive, undecisive, decisively,etc). Here are just some of the rules, that might help you do the exercise which follows.

## Prefixes

We add prefixes before the base or stem of a word.

| examples | prefixes |
| --- | --- |
| *monorail*, *monolingual* | *mono*- means ‘one’ |
| *multipurpose*, *multicultural* | *multi*- means ‘many’ |
| *post-war*, *postgraduate* | *post*- means ‘after’ |
| *unusual*, *undemocratic* | *un*- means ‘not’ or ‘opposite to’ |

## Suffixes

We add suffixes after the base or stem of a word. The main purpose of a suffix is to show what class of word it is (e.g. noun or adjective).

| examples | suffixes |
| --- | --- |
| *terrorism*, *sexism* | *-ism* and *-dom* are used to form nouns |
| *employer*, *actor* | *-er* and *-or* are used to form nouns to describe people who do things |
| *widen, simplify* | *-en* and *-ify* are used to form verbs |
| *reasonable, unprofitable* | *-able* is used to form adjectives |
| *unhappily, naturally* | *-ly* is a common suffix used to form adverbs |

**Vocabulary Formation Worksheet**

For each question, fill the space or spaces in the sentence using the base word given in bold at the end. The required word may be a noun, adverb, adjective or verb and it may be either positive (e.g. helpful) or negative (e.g. unhelpful).

1. This queue hasn't moved in five minutes. I'm getting a bit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!  
**patient**

2. Politicians should spend some time living on the streets like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people have to and then they would understand better the problems they have.  
**home**

3. Carl was calmly taking a photograph as this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ large bear walked towards the car. It was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ experience...at least for me!  
**astonish**  
**terrify**

4. If you go walking around the factory, ensure you have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ clothing on.  
**protect**

5. Are you sure you have cleaned the kitchen? There is still a pretty \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ smell coming from it.  
**pleasant**

6. Although it isn't definite we will see you tomorrow, it is quite \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  
**like**

7. Be sure not to put more than three \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of vodka into the mix, otherwise it will be too alcoholic.  
**spoon**

8. Finding a cure for cancer will be a huge \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ breakthrough for mankind.  
**medicine**

9. Buying and selling antiques can be a very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hobby if you know how to find a good bargain.  
**profit**

10. We were left without any money for the last part of our holiday because we had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the cost of the train ticket to Norway.  
**estimate**

11. Mr. Transom stared \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the group of students talking in the corner and they shut up immediately.  
**cross**

12. Jennings is so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ enthusiastic about the game that his enthusiasm spreads to his team-mates and the result is usually a strong performance.  
**wonder**

13. I think I was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sacked and have decided to bring the company to court.  
**fair**

14. Have you seen my handbag John? It seems to have totally \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!  
**appear**

15. You know your father is the most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ person in the world. He is sure to be wearing one of his old sweaters to the party.  
**fashion**

16. People will need to see \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ provable information before they can believe in something like life on other planets.  
**science**

17. It isn't very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that Paula is at home, is it? She usually works at this time.  
**like**

18. Megan was told by her dietician that she was becoming \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thin and should eat more.  
**danger**

19. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the spice of life, says the proverb and everyone should try and do new things and meet new people to avoid becoming bored.  
**vary**

20. Harry had a difficult \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and was brought up by an aunt and uncle living in the country.  
**child**

21. The whole dispute began after a small \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over the money needed to finance the new company.  
**agree**

22. The introduction of insecticides in the 20th Century \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ agriculture across the world.  
**revolution**

23. All the coastal towns in this area are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by strong tradition of dance and there is a festival of dance that takes place every August.  
**character**

24. My company has spent a lot of money building a new, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ factory which will nearly double production.  
**computer**