

8.8 Language in focus

Word families – prefixes and suffixes

I can recognise and form a wide range of words using prefixes and suffixes.

- 1 Read the information. Then tick the example words you know. Try to guess the meaning of the other words.

Prefixes, as well as suffixes, can be added to the same root word to create word families. For example, from the root word *use* you can form *reuse*, *misuse*, *disused* and *reusable*. The table lists some common prefixes and their meanings.

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLES
un- in- dis- il- im- ir-	not (mainly adjectives)	uneven, illogical
un- dis-	opposite (mainly verbs)	undo, disallow
re-	do again	rebuild, redistribute
mis-	badly, wrongly	misbehave, mismanage
multi-	many, several	multicoloured, multinational
over- under-	too much/not enough	overwork, underpay
pro-/anti-	in favour/against	pro-democracy, anti-communist
pre- post-	before/after	pre-owned, postwar

- 2 Translate the example words in Exercise 1. Are there similar prefixes in your language?
- 3 Write the negative form of the words in the box next to the correct prefix. What spelling rules can you work out for *il-*, *im-* and *ir-*?

ability believe capable fair formal legible literate
mature patient pleasant regular relevant

- 1 dis- _____, _____ 4 in- _____, _____
2 il- _____, _____ 5 ir- _____, _____
3 im- _____, _____ 6 un- _____, _____
- 4 Give these statements the opposite meaning by changing the underlined word. Which statements do you agree with?
- It's probable that people will live on Mars one day.
 - The money I get from my parents every week is adequate.
 - It ought to be legal to ride a bicycle without a helmet.
 - Most people would describe me as responsible.
 - The roads in my country are really safe.
 - Doctors are underpaid for the job they do.
 - People who are pro-nuclear don't understand the dangers.
 - Pre-match interviews with footballers are usually boring.
- 5 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word in capitals. Use a prefix and a suffix each time. Do you share any of these worries?
- I worry about:
- jobs. Youth _____ is a big problem in my country. **EMPLOY**
 - the environment. People should use more _____ energy. **NEW**
 - the media. There is too much _____: you can't trust anybody. **INFORM**
 - health. There aren't enough doctors. Hospitals are _____. **STAFF**
 - politics. Politicians should be made to keep their _____ promises. **ELECT**
 - our society. I think it should be more _____. **CULTURE**

08 WORD LIST

Geographical features

bay /beɪ/
cave/cavern /keɪv/'kævn/
cliff /klɪf/
coast /kəʊst/
coastal region /'kəʊstl rɪdʒən/
coastline /'kəʊstlaɪn/
current /'kʌrənt/
dam /dæm/
diverse landscape /daɪvɜːs 'lændskeɪp/
foothills /'fuːhɪlz/
glacier /'glæsiə/
gyre/whirlpool /'dʒaɪə/'wɜːlpuːl/
ice cap /'aɪs kæp/
(lush) forest /('lʌʃ) 'fɒrəst/
(majestic) mountains /('mædʒestɪk) 'maʊntɪnz/
natural wonder /'nætʃərəl 'wʌndə/
pond /pɒnd/
(sandy) beach /('sændi) 'biːtʃ/
seabed /'siːbɛd/
seashore /'siːʃɔː/
stream /striːm/
tide /taɪd/
(vast) desert /('vʌst) 'dezət/
wave /weɪv/

Describing location

above/below the surface /ə'baʊ/bɪ'ləʊ ðə 'sɜːfəs/
cover /'kʌv/
deep in the forest /diːp ɪn ðə 'fɒrəst/
high in the mountains /'haɪ ɪn ðə 'maʊntɪnz/
in the northern/southern/eastern/western part of an island/
country /ɪn ðə 'nɔːðən/saʊðən/iːstən/westən paːt əv ən 'aɪlənd/
'kʌntri/
inland from sth /'ɪnlənd frəm/
lie /laɪ/
mainland /'meɪnlənd/
off the coast /ɒf ðə 'kəʊst/
on the (east/west) coast (of Australia) /ɒn ðə (iːst/west) 'kəʊst
(əv ə'streɪliə)/
surrounded by sth /sə'reaʊndɪd baɪ/
to the north/south/east/west of sth /tə ðə 'nɔːθ/'saʊθ/'iːst/
'west əv/
underground /'ʌndəgraʊnd/

Animals

camel /'kæməl/
chimpanzee /tʃɪmpæn'ziː/
domestic/farm/wild animal /də'mestɪk/fɑːm/waɪld 'æniməl/
jellyfish /'dʒeliʃɪʃ/
lizard /'lɪzəd/
(marine) mammal /('mɑːrɪn) 'mæməl/
owl /aʊl/
rabbit /'ræbɪt/
(sea) creature /('siː) 'kriːtʃə/
seabird /'siːbəɪd/
sea lion /'siː 'laɪən/
sheep /ʃiːp/
turtle /'tɜːtl/
whale /weɪl/

Describing animals

adorable/loveable /ə'dɔːrəbəl/'lʌvəbəl/
aggressive towards sb/sth /ə'ɡresɪv tə'wɔːdɪz/
agile /'ædʒaɪl/
be competitive against sb /bi kəm'petətɪv ə'ɡenst/
behaviour /bɪ'heɪvjə/
childhood/adolescence /'tʃɪldhʊd/'ædə'lesəns/
develop powerful bonds /dɪ'veləp 'paʊəfəl 'bɒndz/
do well in intelligence tests /duː wel ɪn ɪn'telədʒəns tests/
domesticate /də'mestɪkət/
(extremely) violent /(ɪk'striːmlɪ) 'vaɪələnt/
evolve /'iːvəlv/
follow the crowd /fɒləʊ ðə 'kraʊd/
food chain /'fuːd tʃeɪn/
form (stable) communities /fɔːm ('steɪbəl) kə'mjuːnətɪz/
gentle /dʒentl/
graceful /'ɡreɪsfəl/
in the wild /ɪn ðə 'waɪld/
independent (of sb/sth) /ɪndə'pendənt (əv)/