

Word formation list

Nouns

-age

Verb

break

cover

pack

post

store

wreck

Adjective

short

Noun

breakage

coverage

package

postage

storage

wreckage

Noun

shortage

-al

Verb

(dis)approve

arrive

bury

deny

dismiss

propose

rehearse

remove

renew

revive

survive

Noun

(dis)approval

arrival

burial

denial

dismissal

proposal

rehearsal

removal

renewal

revival

survival

-ance

Verb

annoy

(dis)appear

attend

disturb

endure

enter

ignore

inherit

perform

rely

resemble

resist

signify

tolerate

Adjective

arrogant

distant

(un)important

Noun

annoyance

(dis)appearance

attendance

disturbance

endurance

entrance

ignorance

inheritance

performance

reliance

resemblance

resistance

(in)significance

(in)tolerance

Noun

arrogance

distance

(un)importance

(ir)relevant

reluctant

(ir)relevance

reluctance

-ence

Verb

confide

depend

differ

exist

insist

obey

occur

offend

persist

recur

Adjective

absent

(in)competent

(in)convenient

evident

innocent

intelligent

(im)patient

present

violent

Noun

confidence

(in)dependence

difference

existence

insistence

obedience

occurrence

offence

persistence

recurrence

Noun

absence

(in)competence/competency

(in)convenience

evidence

innocence

intelligence

(im)patience

presence

violence

-cy

Adjective

(in)accurate

(in)adequate

bankrupt

(in)decent

(in)efficient

(in)frequent

immediate

infant

intimate

(il)literate

pregnant

private

proficient

redundant

secret

urgent

vacant

Noun

pirate

Noun

(in)accuracy

(in)adequacy

bankruptcy

(in)decency

(in)efficiency

(in)frequency

immediacy

infancy

intimacy

(il)literacy

pregnancy

privacy

proficiency

redundancy

secrecy

urgency

vacancy

Noun

piracy

Word formation list

-dom

Adjective

bored

free

wise

Person

king

star

Noun

boredom

freedom

wisdom

Abstract noun

kingdom

stardom

-ful

Noun

arm

cup

fist

hand

house

room

spoon

Noun (Quantity)

armful

cupful

fistful

handful

houseful

roomful

spoonful

-hood

Person

adult

child

father

man

mother

neighbour

parent

woman

Abstract noun

adulthood

childhood

fatherhood

manhood

motherhood

neighbourhood*

parenthood

womanhood

*neighbourhood part of a town or city where people live

Adjective

likely

Noun

likelihood

-iety

Adjective

anxious

notorious

sober

various

Noun

anxiety

notoriety

sobriety

variety

-ity

Adjective

(un)able

(in)active

complex

credible

Noun

(in)ability

(in)activity

complexity

credibility

curious

(un)equal

(un)familiar

ferocious

(in)flexible

(in)formal

generous

hostile

immune

intense

major

minor

(im)mobile

objective

(un)original

personal

(un)popular

prosperous

(im)pure

(in)secure

(in)sensitive

severe

similar

simple

(in)sincere

stupid

subjective

(in)valid

curiosity

(in)equality

(un)familiarity

ferocity

(in)flexibility

(in)formality

generosity

hostility

immunity

intensity

majority

minority

(im)mobility

objectivity

(un)originality

personality

(un)popularity

prosperity

(im)purity

(in)security

(in)sensitivity

severity

similarity

simplicity

(in)sincerity

stupidity

subjectivity

(in)validity

-ing

Verb

advertise

build

gather

like

live

meet

record

say

set

suffer

Noun

advertising

building

gathering

liking

living

meeting

recording

saying

setting

suffering

-ment

Verb

achieve

(dis)agree

amaze

amuse

Noun

achievement

(dis)agreement

amazement

amusement

Word formation list

announce	announcement
argue	argument
arrange	arrangement
commit	commitment
content	contentment
develop	development
disappoint	disappointment
discourage	discouragement
embarrass	embarrassment
employ	(un)employment
encourage	encouragement
enjoy	enjoyment
entertain	entertainment
excite	excitement
govern	government
improve	improvement
invest	investment
involve	involvement
judge	judgement/ judgment
manage	management
measure	measurement
move	movement
(re)pay	(re)payment
punish	punishment
refresh	refreshment
replace	replacement
require	requirement
retire	retirement
settle	settlement
treat	treatment

-ness

Adjective	Noun
(un)aware	(un)awareness
careless	carelessness
close	closeness
(un)conscious	(un)consciousness
deaf	deafness
eager	eagerness
(in)effective	(in)effectiveness
(un)friendly	(un)friendliness
great	greatness
hard	hardness
hopeless	hopelessness
(un)selfish	(un)selfishness
serious	seriousness
stiff	stiffness

thorough	thoroughness
tired	tiredness
useful	usefulness
weak	weakness

-ship

Person	Abstract noun
champion	championship
companion	companionship
friend	friendship
leader	leadership
member	membership
owner	ownership
partner	partnership
scholar	scholarship*
sponsor	sponsorship**

***scholarship** money given to someone to help pay for their studies

****sponsorship** money given to someone/an organisation to help pay for something, e.g. an event

Adjective	Noun
hard	hardship

-sis

Verb	Noun
analyse	analysis
base	basis
diagnose	diagnosis
emphasise	emphasis

-sion

Verb	Noun
collide	collision
comprehend	comprehension
conclude	conclusion
confuse	confusion
convert	conversion
decide	decision
divert	diversion
divide	division
erode	erosion
evade	evasion
exclude	exclusion
expand	expansion
explode	explosion
include	inclusion
intrude	intrusion

Word formation list

invade
persuade
supervise

invasion
persuasion
supervision

-son

Verb

compare

Noun

comparison

-ation

Verb

adapt
administer
apply
combine
compile
consider
expect
explain
identify
imagine
inflamm
inform
inspire
interpret
observe
prepare
present
publish
(dis)qualify
realise
resign
vary

Noun

adaptation
administration
application
combination
compilation
consideration
expectation
explanation
identification
imagination
inflammation
information
inspiration
interpretation
observation
preparation
presentation
publication
(dis)qualification
realisation
resignation
variation

-tion

Verb

accommodate
(re)act
associate
collect
complicate
compose
(dis)connect
contaminate
demonstrate
direct
evolve
hesitate
imitate
inhibit

Noun

accommodation
(re)action
association
collection
complication
composition
(dis)connection
contamination
demonstration
direction
evolution
hesitation
imitation
inhibition

investigate
(de)motivate
operate
perceive
predict
prescribe
receive
recognise
reduce
repeat
(dis)satisfy
(re)solve
subscribe
substitute

investigation
(de)motivation
operation
perception
prediction
prescription
reception
recognition
reduction
repetition
(dis)satisfaction
(re)solution
subscription
substitution

-th

Adjective

broad
deep
long
strong
true
warm
wide
young

Noun

breadth
depth
length
strength
truth
warmth
width
youth

Verb

grow

Noun

growth

-ure

Verb

close
compose
depart
expose
fail
please
proceed
sign

Noun

closure
composure
departure
exposure
failure
pleasure
procedure
signature

-y

Adjective

difficult
(dis)honest
poor
safe
(un)certain

Noun

difficulty
(dis)honesty
poverty
safety
(un)certainly

Verb

discover
enter

Noun

discovery
entry

Word formation list

People

-ant

Verb

apply
assist
confide
consult
contest
defend
inhabit
occupy
participate

Person

applicant
assistant
confidant(e)
consultant
contestant
defendant
inhabitant
occupant
participant

-ar

Verb

lie

Person

liar

-ative

Verb

represent

Person

representative

-er

Verb

employ
lecture
manufacture
present
read
research
win

Person

employer
lecturer
manufacturer
presenter
reader
researcher
winner

-ian

Noun

comedy
electricity
history
library
mathematics
music
politics

Person

comedian
electrician
historian
librarian
mathematician
musician
politician

-ist

Noun

bicycle
environment
motor (car)
nature
novel
psychiatry

Person

cyclist
environmentalist
motorist
naturalist
novelist
psychiatrist

science

specialism

violin

scientist

specialist

violinist

-or

Verb

act
collect
communicate
compete
conduct
contribute
demonstrate
distribute
instruct
invent
spectate

Person

actor
collector
communicator
competitor
conductor
contributor
demonstrator
distributor
instructor
inventor
spectator

Nouns formed with *up, down, in, away, out, back*

up-

upbringing
upkeep
uprising
uproar
upset
upturn

out-

outbreak
outburst
outcome
outline
outlook
output
outset

down-

downfall
downpour
downside
downturn

-out

breakout
checkout
handout
knockout
lookout
payout
turnout
workout

-down

breakdown

in-

income
input
insight
intake

-back

comeback
drawback
feedback
setback

-away

getaway
hideaway
runaway
takeaway

back-

background

Word formation list

Miscellaneous

Verb

(mis)behave
choose
complain
die
give
know
laugh
lose
prove
receive
respond

Noun

(mis)behaviour
choice
complaint
death
gift
knowledge
laughter
loss
proof
receipt
response

Verb

sell
succeed
think
try
weigh

Noun

sale(s)
success
thought
trial
weight

Adjective

high

Noun

height

Adjectives

-able

Verb

accept
advise
afford
agree
apply
appreciate
approach
avoid
bear
believe
compare
consider
desire
dispense
forget
imagine
irritate
note
notice
pay
predict
prefer
prevent
regret
rely

Adjective

(un)acceptable
(in)advisable
affordable
(dis)agreeable
(in)applicable
appreciable
(un)approachable
(un)avoidable
(un)bearable
(un)believable
(in)comparable
(in)considerable
(un)desirable
(in)dispensable
(un)forgettable
(un)imaginable
irritable
notable
noticeable
payable
(un)predictable
preferable
preventable
regrettable
(un)reliable

remark

(un)remarkable

respect

respectable

understand

understandable

work

(un)workable

Noun

comfort
fashion
knowledge
memory
profit
reason
value

Adjective

(un)comfortable
(un)fashionable
knowledgeable
(un)memorable
(un)profitable
(un)reasonable
(in)valuable

-ible

Noun

access
flexibility
sense

Adjective

(in)accessible
(in)flexible
(in)sensible*

Verb

comprehend
defend
perceive
resist
respond
reverse

Adjective

(in)comprehensible
(in)defensible
(im)perceptible
(ir)resistible
(ir)responsible
(ir)reversible

***sensible:** showing or having good sense, e.g. *Cycling with a broken arm is not a very sensible thing to do.*

insensible: a unconscious

e.g. *He was found drunk and insensible.*

b not caring about or unaware of

e.g. *She seemed insensible to the dangers involved.*

-al

Noun

accident
addition
alphabet
behaviour
centre
culture
detriment
ecology
emotion
environment
exception
experiment
fact
globe
intention

Adjective

accidental
additional
alphabetical
behavioural
central
cultural
detrimental
ecological
(un)emotional
environmental
(un)exceptional
experimental
factual
global
intentional

Word formation list

Noun

logic
motivation
medicine
method
monument
nation
occasion
occupation
origin
parent
person
practice
profession
sensation
society
temperament
tradition
universe

Adjective

(il)logical
motivational
medicinal
methodical
monumental
national
occasional
occupational
(un)original
parental
(im)personal
(im)practical
(un)professional
(un)sensational
social
temperamental
traditional
universal

-ial

Noun

benefit
commerce
controversy
face
finance
industry
influence
manager
matrimony
residence
secretary
substance
territory

Adjective

beneficial
commercial
(un)controversial
facial
financial
industrial
influential
managerial
matrimonial
residential
secretarial
(in)substantial
territorial

-ant

Verb

ignore
please
rely
resist
signify
tolerate

Adjective

ignorant
(un)pleasant
reliant
resistant
(in)significant
(in)tolerant

-ent

Verb

appear
confide
depend

Adjective

apparent
confident
(in)dependent

insist

obey

persist

recur

Noun

absence
(in)competence/
competency
(in)convenience
evidence
(in)frequency
innocence
intelligence
(im)patience
presence

insistent

(dis)obedient

persistent

recurrent

Adjective

absent
(in)competent
(in)convenient
evident
(in)frequent
innocent
intelligent
(im)patient
present

-ate

Noun

accuracy
adequacy
appropriacy
consideration
fortune
moderation

Adjective

(in)accurate
(in)adequate
(in)appropriate
(in)considerate
(un)fortunate
(im)moderate

-ative

Verb

administer
argue
compare
consult
imagine
inform
prevent
provoke
represent

Adjective

administrative
argumentative
comparative
consultative
(un)imaginative
(un)informative
preventative
provocative
(un)representative

-ive

Verb

act
adopt
appreciate
assert
attend
attract
communicate
compete
conclude
construct

Adjective

(in)active
adoptive
(un)appreciative
(un)assertive
(in)attentive
(un)attractive
(un)communicative
(un)competitive
(in)conclusive
(un)constructive

Word formation list

cooperate	(un)cooperative
create	(un)creative
deceive	deceptive
decide	(in)decisive
defend	defensive
describe	descriptive
destroy	destructive
disrupt	disruptive
divide	divisive
explode	explosive
express	expressive
extend	extensive
impress	(un)impressive
include	inclusive
invent	inventive
offend	(in)offensive
persuade	persuasive
possess	possessive
produce	(un)productive
progress	progressive
protect	protective
receive	(un)receptive
respect	(ir)respective
respond	(un)responsive
speculate	speculative
support	(un)supportive
Noun	Adjective
aggression	(un)aggressive
effect	(in)effective
expense	(in)expensive
secret	secretive
sense	(in)sensitive

Verb	Adjective
close	closing (date)
consult	consulting (room)
recur	recurring (illness, nightmare, problem, theme)
run	running (water)
support	supporting (actor, actress, evidence, role)

-ous

Noun	Adjective
(dis)advantage	(dis)advantageous
ambition	(un)ambitious
anxiety	anxious
caution	cautious
courtesy	(dis)courteous
curiosity	curious
danger	dangerous
disaster	disastrous
glamour	(un)glamorous
hazard	hazardous
humour	humorous
luxury	luxurious
monster	monstrous
mystery	mysterious
nerve	nervous
number	numerous
poison	poisonous
religion	(ir)religious
suspicion	suspicious
Verb	Adjective
infect	infectious
vary	various

-ing/-ed

The following verbs can be used to form participle adjectives

e.g. *worrying/worried*

alarm, amaze, amuse, annoy, astonish, bore, confuse, convince, depress, disappoint, disgust, embarrass, entertain, excite, exhaust, fascinate, frighten, frustrate, increase, interest, irritate, motivate, move, refresh, relax, satisfy, shock, surprise, terrify, threaten, thrill, tire, worry

The following *-ing* adjectives are commonly used with the nouns in brackets.

-ly

Noun	Adjective
friend	(un)friendly
life	lively
time	(un)timely

-y

Noun	Adjective
chat	chatty
cloud	cloudy
ease	easy
fault	faulty
fog	foggy
frost	frosty

Word formation list

grass	grassy	stress	stressful	unstressful
guilt	guilty	success	successful	unsuccessful
hair	hairy	taste	tasty*/tasteful*	tasteless
hill	hilly	thought	thoughtful*	thoughtless
mist	misty	time	_____	timeless
mud	muddy	truth	truthful	untruthful
rain	rainy	use	useful	useless
rock	rocky	waste	wasteful	_____
sleep	sleepy	wonder	wonderful	_____
sun	sunny	worth	_____	worthless*
wealth	wealthy	youth	youthful	_____

-ful/-less

Root	-ful	-less/un_ful
beauty	beautiful	_____
care	careful	careless
cheer	cheerful	cheerless*
colour	colourful	colourless
count	_____	countless
deceit	deceitful	_____
delight	delightful	_____
effort	_____	effortless
end	_____	endless
event	eventful	uneventful
faith	faithful	unfaithful
fault	faulty	faultless
flight	_____	flightless
gratitude	grateful	ungrateful
hair	hairy	hairless
harm	harmful	harmless
heart	_____	heartless
help	helpful	helpless*/ unhelpful*
home	_____	homeless
hope	hopeful	hopeless
hurt	hurtful	_____
job	_____	jobless
meaning	meaningful	meaningless
pain	painful	painless
peace	peaceful	_____
point	_____	pointless
power	powerful	powerless
price	_____	priceless*
relent	_____	relentless
resource	resourceful	unresourceful
respect	respectful	disrespectful
skill	skilful*/skilled*	unskilled
sleep	_____	sleepless
speech	_____	speechless

cheerless: used mainly to describe the weather or a room which is not bright or pleasant

helpless: unable to do anything to help or protect yourself

unhelpful: not willing to help other people

priceless: used to describe an object which has a very high value; it is worth so much money that the price cannot be calculated (compare with *worthless* below)

skilful/skilled: both can be used to describe a person who has the necessary ability, experience and/or training to do something well.

e.g. He's a skilful footballer. This work was done by skilled craftsmen.

skilled: can also be used to describe a job or piece of work that requires special skill and training

e.g. Nursing is a skilled job.

tasty: used to describe food with a strong and pleasant flavour

tasteful: used to describe clothes, decoration, etc which is attractive and shows good taste

thoughtful:

a to describe a person who is quiet and serious because they are thinking about something

b to describe someone who thinks and cares about the feelings and needs of other people

worthless: used to describe an object with no value in money (compare with *priceless* above)

-ic

Noun	Adjective
allergy	allergic
drama	dramatic
optimism	optimistic
pessimism	pessimistic
science	scientific
strategy	strategic

Word formation list

-ary

Noun

caution
literature
revolution

Adjective

cautionary
literary
revolutionary

Verb

imagine
volunteer

Adjective

imaginary
(in)voluntary

-ory

Verb

advise
celebrate
contradict
explain
introduce
migrate
oblige
prepare
satisfy
supervise

Adjective

advisory
celebratory
contradictory
explanatory
introductory
migratory
obligatory
preparatory
(un)satisfactory
supervisory

Verbs

-ate

Noun

alien
assassin
difference
value

Verb

alienate
assassinate
differentiate
evaluate

Adjective

active
captive
dominant
valid

Verb

activate
captivate
dominate
validate

en-

Noun

act
circle
courage
danger
force
list
rage
trust

Verb

enact
encircle
encourage (discourage)
endanger
enforce
enlist
enrage
entrust

Adjective

able
large

Verb

enable
enlarge

rich

sure

enrich

ensure

-ify

Noun

class
example
glory
identity
note
(dis)qualification

Verb

classify
exemplify
glorify
identify
notify
(dis)qualify

Adjective

clear
just
pure
simple
solid

Verb

clarify
justify
purify
simplify
solidify

-en

Adjective

black
bright
broad
dark
dead
deaf
deep
fat
flat
fresh
hard
high
light
long
less
loose
moist
quick
red
ripe
sad
sharp
short
soft
stiff
straight
strong
sweet
thick

Verb

blacken
brighten
broaden
darken
deaden
deafen
deepen
fatten
flatten
freshen
harden
heighten
lighten
lengthen
lessen
loosen
moisten
quicken
redden
ripen
sadden
sharpen
shorten
soften
stiffen
straighten
strengthen
sweeten
thicken

Word formation list

tight

weak

wide

worse

Noun

deafness

height

length

sadness

strength

threat

width

Verb/Noun

rise

-ise

Noun

advert

advice

apology

character

climate

colony

computer

criticism

emphasis

energy

hypnotism

industry

maximum

memory

minimum

moisture

practice

pressure

priority

recognition

revision

revolution

standard

subsidy

summary

supervision

symbol

sympathy

Adjective

commercial

familiar

tighten

weaken

widen

worsen

Verb

deafen

heighten

lengthen

sadden

strengthen

threaten

widen

Verb

risen

Verb

advertise

advise

apologise

characterise

acclimatise

colonise

computerise

criticise

emphasise

energise

hypnotise

industrialise

maximise

memorise

minimise

moisturise

practise

pressurise

prioritise

recognise

revise

revolutionise

standardise

subsidise

summarise

supervise

symbolise

sympathise

Verb

commercialise

familiarise

formal

general

hypnotic

item

modern

social

special

stable

visual

formalise

generalise

hypnotise

itemise

modernise

socialise

specialise

stabilise

visualise

Verbs formed with *up, down, over, under, out*

up-

update

upgrade

uphold

uplift

uproot

upset

upstage

over-

overcome

overcook

overeat

overestimate

overexpose

overflow

overhear

overheat

overload

overlook

overrate

overrule

overrun

overshadow

oversleep

overspend

overstay

overstretch

overtake

overthrow

overuse

overwork

down-

downgrade

download

downplay

downshift

downsize

under-

underachieve

undercharge

undercut

underestimate

undergo

underline

underrate

understate

undertake

undervalue

out-

outgrow

outlast

outlive

outnumber

outplay

outrun

outstay