

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

(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

-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

-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

(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**

	Noun
bored	boredom
free	freedom
wise	wisdom
Person	Abstract noun
king	kingdom
star	stardom

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

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

-ful**Noun**

	Noun (Quantity)
arm	armful
cup	cupful
fist	fistful
hand	handful
house	houseful
room	roomful
spoon	spoonful

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

-hood**Person**

	Abstract noun
adult	adulthood
child	childhood
father	fatherhood
man	manhood
mother	motherhood
neighbour	neighbourhood*
parent	parenthood
woman	womanhood

-ing

*neighbourhood part of a town or city where people live

Adjective

	Noun
likely	likelihood

Verb**Noun**

advertise

advertising

build

building

gather

gathering

like

liking

live

living

meet

meeting

record

recording

say

saying

set

setting

suffer

suffering

-iety**Adjective**

	Noun
anxious	anxiety
notorious	notoriety
sober	sobriety
various	variety

-ity**Adjective**

	Noun
(un)able	(in)ability
(in)active	(in)activity
complex	complexity
credible	credibility

Verb**Noun**

achieve

achievement

(dis)agree

(dis)agreement

amaze

amazement

amuse

amusement

Word formation list

announce	announcement	thorough	thoroughness
argue	argument	tired	tiredness
arrange	arrangement	useful	usefulness
commit	commitment	weak	weakness
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		
<hr/>			
-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		
<hr/>			
-ship			
Person	Abstract noun		
champion	championship		
companion	companionship		
friend	friendship		
leader	leadership		
member	membership		
owner	ownership		
partner	partnership		
scholar	scholarship*		
sponsor	sponsorship**		
<hr/>			
*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			
<hr/>			
Adjective	Noun		
hard	hardship		
<hr/>			
-sis			
Verb	Noun		
analyse	analysis		
base	basis		
diagnose	diagnosis		
emphasise	emphasis		
<hr/>			
-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	invasion	investigate	investigation
persuade	persuasion	(de)motivate	(de)motivation
supervise	supervision	operate	operation

-son

Verb	Noun		
compare	comparison	prescribe	prescription

-ation

Verb	Noun		
adapt	adaptation	(dis)satisfy	(dis)satisfaction
administer	administration	(re)solve	(re)solution
apply	application	subscribe	subscription
combine	combination	substitute	substitution
compile	compilation		
consider	consideration		
expect	expectation		
explain	explanation		
identify	identification		
imagine	imagination		
inflame	inflammation		
inform	information		
inspire	inspiration		
interpret	interpretation		
observe	observation		
prepare	preparation		
present	presentation		
publish	publication		
(dis)qualify	(dis)qualification		
realise	realisation		
resign	resignation		
vary	variation		

-tion

Verb	Noun		
accommodate	accommodation		
(re)act	(re)action		
associate	association		
collect	collection		
complicate	complication		
compose	composition		
(dis)connect	(dis)connection		
contaminate	contamination		
demonstrate	demonstration		
direct	direction		
evolve	evolution		
hesitate	hesitation		
imitate	imitation		
inhibit	inhibition		
		Adjective	Noun
		close	closure
		compose	composure
		depart	departure
		expose	exposure
		fail	failure
		please	pleasure
		proceed	procedure
		sign	signature
		Verb	Noun
		Adjective	Noun
		difficult	difficulty
		(dis)honest	(dis)honesty
		poor	poverty
		safe	safety
		(un)certain	(un)certainty
		Verb	Noun
		discover	discovery
		enter	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

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

-ar**Verb**

lie

Person

liar

-ative**Verb**

represent

Person

representative

Nouns formed with *up*, *down*, *in*, *away*, *out*, *back***-er****Verb**

employ

lecture

manufacture

present

read

research

win

Person

employer

lecturer

manufacturer

presenter

reader

researcher

winner

***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

***in*-**

income

input

insight

intake

***back*-**

comeback

drawback

feedback

setback

***away*-**

getaway

hideaway

runaway

takeaway

***back*-**

background

-ist**Noun**

bicycle

environment

motor (car)

nature

novel

psychiatry

Person

cyclist

environmentalist

motorist

naturalist

novelist

psychiatrist

Miscellaneous**Verb**

(mis)behave

choose

complain

die

give

know

laugh

lose

prove

receive

respond

Verb

sell

succeed

think

try

weigh

Adjective

high

Noun

(mis)behaviour

choice

complaint

death

gift

knowledge

laughter

loss

proof

receipt

response

Noun

sale(s)

success

thought

trial

weight

Noun

height

remark

respect

understand

work

Noun

comfort

fashion

knowledge

memory

profit

reason

value

(un)remarkable

respectable

understandable

(un)workable

Adjective

(un)comfortable

(un)fashionable

knowledgeable

(un)memorable

(un)profitable

(un)reasonable

(in)valuable

-ible**Noun**

access

flexibility

sense

Verb

comprehend

defend

perceive

resist

respond

reverse

Adjective

(in)accessible

(in)flexible

(in)sensible*

Adjective

(in)comprehensible

(in)defensible

(im)perceptible

(ir)resistible

(ir)responsible

(ir)reversible

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

sensible:** showing or having good sense, e.g. *Cycling with a broken arm is not a very sensible thing to do.insensible:** a unconsciouse.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	Adjective	Noun	Adjective
logic	(il)logical	insist	insistent
motivation	motivational	obey	(dis)obedient
medicine	medicinal	persist	persistent
method	methodical	recur	recurrent
monument	monumental	Noun	Adjective
nation	national	absence	absent
occasion	occasional	(in)competence/ competency	(in)competent
occupation	occupational	(in)convenience	(in)convenient
origin	(un)original	evidence	evident
parent	parental	(in)frequency	(in)frequent
person	(im)personal	innocence	innocent
practice	(im)practical	intelligence	intelligent
profession	(un)professional	(im)patience	(im)patient
sensation	(un)sensational	presence	present
society	social		
temperament	temperamental		
tradition	traditional		
universe	universal		
<hr/>			
-ial			
Noun	Adjective	Noun	Adjective
benefit	beneficial	accuracy	(in)accurate
commerce	commercial	adequacy	(in)adequate
controversy	(un)controversial	appropriacy	(in)appropriate
face	facial	consideration	(in)considerate
finance	financial	fortune	(un)fortunate
industry	industrial	moderation	(im)moderate
influence	influential		
manager	managerial		
matrimony	matrimonial		
residence	residential		
secretary	secretarial		
substance	(in)substantial		
territory	territorial		
<hr/>			
-ant			
Verb	Adjective	Verb	Adjective
ignore	ignorant	act	(in)active
please	(un)pleasant	adopt	adoptive
rely	reliant	appreciate	(un)appreciative
resist	resistant	assert	(un)assertive
signify	(in)significant	attend	(in)attentive
tolerate	(in)tolerant	attract	(un)attractive
<hr/>			
-ent			
Verb	Adjective	Verb	Adjective
appear	apparent	communicate	(un)communicative
confide	confident	compete	(un)competitive
depend	(in)dependent	conclude	(in)conclusive
		construct	(un)constructive

cooperate	(un)cooperative	Verb	Adjective
create	(un)creative	close	closing (date)
deceive	deceptive	consult	consulting (room)
decide	(in)decisive	recur	recurring (illness, nightmare, problem, theme)
defend	defensive	run	running (water)
describe	descriptive	support	supporting (actor, actress, evidence, role)
destroy	destructive		
disrupt	disruptive		
divide	divisive		
explode	explosive	-ous	
express	expressive	Noun	Adjective
extend	extensive	(dis)advantage	(dis)advantageous
impress	(un)impressive	ambition	(un)ambitious
include	inclusive	anxiety	anxious
invent	inventive	caution	cautious
offend	(in)offensive	courtesy	(dis)courteous
persuade	persuasive	curiosity	curious
possess	possessive	danger	dangerous
produce	(un)productive	disaster	disastrous
progress	progressive	glamour	(un)glamorous
protect	protective	hazard	hazardous
receive	(un)receptive	humour	humorous
respect	(ir)respective	luxury	luxurious
respond	(un)responsive	monster	monstrous
speculate	speculative	mystery	mysterious
support	(un)supportive	nerve	nervous
Noun	Adjective	number	numerous
aggression	(un)aggressive	poison	poisonous
effect	(in)effective	religion	(ir)religious
expense	(in)expensive	suspicion	suspicious
secret	secretive	Verb	Adjective
sense	(in)sensitive	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	Adjective
caution	cautionary
literature	literary
revolution	revolutionary
Verb	Adjective
imagine	imaginary
volunteer	(in)voluntary

rich

sure

enrich

ensure

-ify

Noun	Verb
class	classify
example	exemplify
glory	glorify
identity	identify
note	notify
(dis)qualification	(dis)qualify
Adjective	Verb
clear	clarify
just	justify
pure	purify
simple	simplify
solid	solidify

-ory

Verb	Adjective
advise	advisory
celebrate	celebratory
contradict	contradictory
explain	explanatory
introduce	introductory
migrate	migratory
oblige	obligatory
prepare	preparatory
satisfy	(un)satisfactory
supervise	supervisory

-en

Adjective	Verb
black	blacken
bright	brighten
broad	broaden
dark	darken
dead	deaden
deaf	deafen
deep	deepen
fat	fatten
flat	flatten
fresh	freshen
hard	harden
high	heighten
light	lighten
long	lengthen
less	lessen
loose	loosen
moist	moisten
quick	quicken
red	redden
ripe	ripen
sad	sadden
sharp	sharpen
short	shorten
soft	soften
stiff	stiffen
straight	straighten
strong	strengthen
sweet	sweeten
thick	thicken

Verbs**-ate**

Noun	Verb
alien	alienate
assassin	assassinate
difference	differentiate
value	evaluate
Adjective	Verb
active	activate
captive	captivate
dominant	dominate
valid	validate

en-

Noun	Verb
act	enact
circle	encircle
courage	encourage (discourage)
danger	endanger
force	enforce
list	enlist
rage	enrage
trust	entrust
Adjective	Verb
able	enable
large	enlarge

Word formation list

tight	tighten	formal	formalise
weak	weaken	general	generalise
wide	widen	hypnotic	hypnotise
worse	worsen	item	itemise
Noun	Verb	modern	modernise
deafness	deafen	social	socialise
height	heighten	special	specialise
length	lengthen	stable	stabilise
sadness	sadden	visual	visualise
strength	strengthen		
threat	threaten		
width	widen		
Verb/Noun	Verb		
rise	risen		
-ise			
Noun	Verb	up-	down-
advert	advertise	update	downgrade
advice	advise	upgrade	download
apology	apologise	uphold	downplay
character	characterise	uplift	downshift
climate	acclimatise	uproot	downsize
colony	colonise	upset	
computer	computerise	upstage	
criticism	criticise	over-	under-
emphasis	emphasise	overcome	underachieve
energy	energise	overcook	undercharge
hypnotism	hypnotise	overeat	undercut
industry	industrialise	overestimate	underestimate
maximum	maximise	overexpose	undergo
memory	memorise	overflow	underline
minimum	minimise	overhear	underrate
moisture	moisturise	overheat	understate
practice	practise	overload	undertake
pressure	pressurise	overlook	undervalue
priority	prioritise	overrate	
recognition	recognise	overrule	
revision	revise	overrun	
revolution	revolutionise	overshadow	
standard	standardise	oversleep	
subsidy	subsidise	overspend	
summary	summarise	overstay	
supervision	supervise	overstretch	
symbol	symbolise	overtake	
sympathy	sympathise	overthrow	
Adjective	Verb	overuse	
commercial	commercialise	overwork	
familiar	familiarise		