**Verb to Noun Suffixes**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SUFFIX** | **VERB – NOUN** | **VERB – NOUN** |
| **-AL**  condition, quality | arrive –arrival  approve – approval | deny –denial  propose –proposal |
| **-ANCE / ENCE**  action, state, condition or quality | attend –attendance  accept –acceptance | prefer – preference  insure – insurance |
| **-ATION / TION**  action or resulting state | educate – education  inform – information | eliminate – elimination  declare – declaration |
| **-SION**  action or resulting state | confuse – confusion  decide – decision | divide –division  revise – revision |
| -**URE**  action or resulting state | depart – departure  erase – erasure | fail – failure  enclose – enclosure |
| **-MENT**  state, act, condition | agree– agreement  pay – payment | employ – employment  argue – argument |
| **-AGE**  action, state, process | break – breakage  post – postage | pack – package  pass – passage |
| **-ING**  action, state, process | bless – blessing  land – landing | write – writing  feed – feeding |
| **-ERY**  location, behavior condition | cream – creamery  slave (N) – slavery | bake –bakery  brave (Adj) – bravery |

**Adjective to Noun Suffixes**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SUFFIX** | **ADJECTIVE – NOUN** | **ADJECTIVE – NOUN** |
| -**NESS** state, quality, condition | happy – happiness  useful – usefulness | kind – kindness  truthful – truthfulness |
| **-ITY**  state or condition | active – activity  stupid – stupidity | curious – curiosity  mobile – mobility |
| **-ISM**state, practice | ideal – idealism  colonial – colonialism | human – humanism  imperial – imperialism |
| **-TH**  condition | wide – width  dead – death | long – length  foul – filth |
| **-Y**  condition | private – privacy  difficult – difficulty | honest – honesty  jealous – jealousy |
| **-ERY**location, collective, behavior condition | brave – bravery |  |
| **-TY**  condition | safe – safety  cruel – cruelty | certain – certainty  subtle – subtlety |

**Verb to Personal Noun**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SUFFIX** | **VERB – PERSONAL NOUN** | **VERB – PERSONAL NOUN** |
| **-ANT / ENT** person / instrument / agent | attend– attendant  assist – assistant | inform – informant  correspond – correspondent |
| **-EE**  person / instrument / recipient of action | appoint – appointee  attend – attendee | pay – payee  trust – trustee |
| **-IST**  person who practices | tour – tourist | machine (V) – machinist |
| **-AR**  person who does | beg – beggar  burgle – burglar | lie – liar |
| **-ER**  person who does | advertise – advertiser  believe – believer  build – builder | buy – buyer  call – caller  interpret – interpreter |
| **-OR**  person who does | act – actor  collect – collector  dictate – dictator | direct – director  instruct – instructor  legislate – legislator |

**Adjective to Personal Noun**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SUFFIX** | **ADJ – PERSONAL NOUN** | **ADJ – PERSONAL NOUN** |
| **-IST**  person who practices | active – activist  extreme – extremist | human – humanist  ideal – idealist |
| **-STER**  person connected to | young¹ – youngster | hip — hipster |

**Noun to Personal Noun**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SUFFIX** | **NOUN – PERSONAL NOUN** | **NOUN – PERSONAL NOUN** |
| **-ARIAN**  holders of a particular doctrine | vegetable – vegetarian  library - librarian | human – humanitarian  sect – sectarian |
| **-EE**  person / instrument | address (N/V)  – addressee | refuge (N)  – refugee |
| **-ER**  person concern with | farm (N/V) – farmer  hat – hatter | law – lawyer  jewel – jeweler |
| **-EER**  person concerned with | engine –engineer  profit – profiteer | musket – musketeer  racket – racketeer |
| **-IST**  person who practices | bicycle – bicyclist (N→N)  cartoon – cartoonist (N→N) | column – columnist  physics – physicist |
| **-STER**  person connected to | gang – gangster | mob – mobster |

**Noun to Collective Noun List**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SUFFIX** | **NOUN – COLL. NOUN** | **NOUN – COLL. NOUN** |
| **-DOM**  state, condition, office | star – stardom  fan – fandom | bore – boredom  king – kingdom |
| **-SHIP** state, condition, skill, office, associated with | censor – censorship  partner – partnership | scholar – scholarship  dealer – dealership |
| **-HOOD**  state, collective | brother – brotherhood  widow – widowhood | neighbor – neighborhood  child – childhood |
| **-ERY** location, collective, behavior condition | slave – slavery (collective state) | machine – machinery |

**ADJECTIVES**

**Adjectives with the suffixes ABLE, IBLE**

**ABLE**

hospitable,favorable, measurable, profitable, questionable, reasonable, reputable, sociable, valuable,

**IBLE**

audible, credible, edible, fallible, feasible, flexible, horrible, legible, plausible, possible, sensible, tangible,

**Adjectives with the suffixes AL, IAL**

**AL**

central, dental, dismal, equal, final, fiscal, formal, global, legal, regal, rational, regional, structural, additional,

**IAL**

commercial, financial, judicial, official, provincial; artificial, beneficial, superficial; controversial;essential, initial, potential, substantial;

**Adjectives with the suffixes AN, IAN**

**AN**

African, Anglican, Balkan, German, human, pagan, urban, puritan; suburban, republican; cosmopolitan,

**IAN**

Asian, Indian, Martian, Persian, barbarian, civilian, pedestrian, utopian; vegetarian; humanitarian, totalitarian.

**Adjectives with the suffixes ANT, ENT**

**ANT**

blatant, constant, distantinstant, migrant, pleasant, brilliant, dominant, elegant, hesitant, ignorant, abundant, assistant, important, reluctant, resistant, resultant; compliant, defiant, triumphant; predominant, significant;

**ENT**

absent, ardent, current, decent, fervent, fluent, frequent, latent, patent, potent, present, prudent, recent, silent, affluent, competent, imminent, impudent, lenient; self-confident; negligent, adjacent, apparent, complacent, consistent, dependent, emergent, insistent, persistent, recurrent, deficient, efficient, sufficient, equivalent,

**Adjectives with the suffixes ARY, ORY, AR**

**ARY**

contrary, primary; arbitrary, cautionary, customary, fragmentary, honorary, legendary, literary, military, missionary, momentary, monetary;necessary, ordinary, sanitary, secondary, solitary, stationary, temporary, disciplinary, exemplary, auxiliary, contemporary, extraordinary, hereditary, imaginary, precautionary,

complimentary, complementary, elementary, parliamentary, rudimentary, supplementary, revolutionary;

**ORY**

sensory, desultory, mandatory, migratory, predatory, promissory; advisory, compulsory, illusory, explanatory, exploratory, inflammatory;obligatory, contradictory, introductory, satisfactory, congratulatory, unsatisfactory.

**AR**

polar, solar, stellar, vulgar; angular, circular, nuclear, popular, regular, secular, similar, singular, particular, peculiar, dissimilar, irregular, unfamiliar, unpopular.

**Adjectives with the suffix ATE**

private, accurate, adequate, delicate, intricate, desperate, literate, moderate, separate,ultimate, fortunate, obstinate, appropriate, approximate, articulate, deliberate, elaborate, immediate, legitimate

**Adjectives with the suffix FUL**

awful, bashful, faithful, fateful, forceful, graceful, grateful, hateful, hopeful, lawful, mournful, painful, playful, shameful, tasteful, thankful, thoughtful, trustful, wakeful, wasteful;

**Adjectives with the suffixes IC, ICAL**

**IC**

academic, acoustic, aesthetic, authentic, autocratic, automatic, axiomatic; basic, bureaucratic, civic, classic, democratic, demographic, diagnostic, diplomatic, domestic, dramatic, drastic, dynamic; economic, epic, graphic;

**ICAL**

archaeological, astronomical, biblical, biographical, biological, botanical;

canonical, categorical, chemical, chronological, classical, empirical, ethical; mathematical, mechanical, medical, meteorological, methodical, numerical, optical; periodical, philosophical, phonological, physical, physio-logical, piratical, political, practical, psychological, illogical, impractical, unpractical, unethical.

**Adjectives with the suffixes ISTIC, ISTICAL**

**ISTIC**

altruistic, antagonistic, artistic, capitalistic, characteristic, chauvinistic; formalistic, futuristic, holistic; humanistic, idealistic, imperialistic, impressionistic, individualistic, journalistic, linguistic, logistic (also logistical), materialistic, moralistic; nationalistic, naturalistic, nihilistic, optimistic, pessimistic, puristic, realistic, simplistic,

**ISTICAL**

egoistical, egotistical, logistical, statistical.

**Adjectives with the suffix ISH**

British, Danish, English, foolish, selfish, sluggish, snobbish, squeamish, stylish; unselfish;

clownish, fiendish, freakish, hellish, impish, largish, smallish, oldish, owl-ish, pettish, roguish, slavish, sweetish, waspish;

babyish, childish, boyish, girlish, mannish, womanish; devilish, feverish; nightmarish; coquettish;

blackish, bluish, brownish, grayish, greenish, pinkish, reddish, whitish, yellowish, darkish.

(Note nouns with "ish": anguish, English, fetish, relish, skirmish, varnish, etc.)

(Note verbs with "ish": to astonish, finish, punish, relish, vanish, varnish, etc.)

**Adjectives with the suffix IVE**

active, passive, massive, native, sportive; lucrative, narrative, negative, positive, primitive, relative, secretive, sensitive, talkative; decorative, figurative, qualitative, quantitative; attentive, creative, collective, selective, deceptive, detective, directive, defective, effective, objective, subjective, perceptive, preventive, prospective, protective, respective, suggestive, supportive; constructive, destructive, instructive, deductive, inductive, productive, seductive, attractive, contrastive, exhaustive, descriptive, prescriptive, distinctive, instinctive, restrictive, addictive, vindictive; affirmative, alternative, appreciative, attributive, distributive, comparative, competitive, repetitive, consecutive, executive, conservative, diminutive, indicative, illustrative, imperative, informative, inquisitive, intuitive; prohibitive, provocative, superlative; authoritative, commemorative, communicative, imaginative; argumentative, interrogative, representative, retrospective;

evasive, elusive, compulsive, impulsive, decisive, defensive, offensive, conclusive, exclusive, inclusive, expansive, expensive, explosive, extensive, intensivepersuasive, pervasive, responsive;

depressive, expressive, impressive, oppressive, obsessive, possessive, excessive, permissive, submissive, aggressive, progressive, regressive, reflexive; apprehensive, comprehensive;

inactive, inattentive, indecisive, ineffective, inexpensive, inoffensive, insensitive; unattractive, unimaginative, unimpressive, unobtrusive, unproductive, unresponsive, irresponsive.

(Note nouns with "ive": alternative, detective, explosive, representative, etc.)

**Adjectives with the suffix LESS**

aimless, flawless, lawless, nameless, worthless; hopeless, jobless, endless, restless, selfless, senseless, harmless, useless; limitless, meaningless, powerless, valueless; relentless, remorseless; expressionless.

**Adjectives with the suffix LY**

likely, lively; lonely, lovely, elderly, daily, hourly, monthly, nightly, quarterly, weekly, yearly; early, timely; easterly, northerly, southerly, westerly; neighbourly (BrE); disorderly, unlikely, unmanly, untimely,

**Adjectives with the suffix OUS (EOUS, IOUS, UOUS)**

**OUS**

famous, jealous, marvelous (AmE), hazardous, disastrous, enormous, horrendous, tremendous; adventurous,

anonymous, ridiculous, infamous, incredulous, unscrupulous.

**EOUS**

erroneous, spontaneous; courageous, outrageous, advantageous; miscellaneous, simultaneous.

**IOUS**

anxious, cautious, conscious, vicious; serious, various, copious, prestigious, ambitious, conscientious; atrocious, audacious, self-conscious, illustrious, imperious, industrious, harmonious, impervious, oblivious,

**UOUS**

virtuous; ambiguous, conspicuous, contiguous, continuous; unambiguous.

**Participial adjectives with the suffixes ING, ED**

**ING**

boring, charming, interesting, appalling, appealing, confusing, convincing, depressing, disgusting, disturbing, exciting, existing, developing, outstanding, longstanding, painstaking, well-meaning;

**ED**

balanced, cultured, frightened, frustrated, limited, spirited, talented, prejudiced, privileged, qualified; animated, educated, interested, irritated; advanced, amused, annoyed, concerned, confused, depressed, disturbed,

inexperienced, unconcerned, undeveloped, undistinguished, unemployed, unexpected, unprecedented,

**Adjectives with the suffix Y**

angry, catchy, crafty, dreamy, empty, faulty, funny, greedy, giddy, gloomy, grisly, grumpy, guilty, happy, hardy,

wealthy, worthy; trustworthy; busy, pretty, prickly, rusty, sandy, scanty, scary, shiny, silky, silvery, skinny, slimy,

**VERBS**

**OPPOSITES**

**Word Formation: Negatives**

For the FCE exam, there's nearly always at least one negative in the word formation paper. There are lots of prefixes and suffixes we can use to make negatives.

1. Negative prefixes can be used with nouns, verbs, adjective and adverbs. For example **dis**approval, **dis**approve, **dis**approving, **dis**approvingly.
2. Usually **im** + **p** (impatient) but not always (unpleasant).
3. Often **il** + **l** (illegal) but not always (unlikely).
4. Often **ir** + **r** (irregular) but not always (unresponsive).
5. Usually **-ful** changes to **-less** (harmful/less) but not always (endless).
6. If you can't remember, choose **un** - it's the most common negative prefix.

Look at the information in the table for 1 minute and try to remember the words. Then click below to hide the information and try to answer the questions at the bottom.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **un-** | **in** | **dis-** | **im-** |
| unexpected unaware unbelievable unknown unable | inaccurate inappropriate inefficient incapable ineffective | disapprove dislike disagree disbelief dishonest | improbable impossible impolite imperfect impatient |
| **il-** | **ir-** | **mis-** | **-less** |
| illegal illiterate illogical illegible | irregular irresponsible irrational irregular | misbehave misunderstand misspell misuse | careless harmless helpless endless |

**Exercise**

1. The politician was accused of being (HONEST)

2. His story was so I thought he was crazy. (BELIEVE)

3. She looked at him in when he told her the shocking news. (BELIEVE)

4. Many people are of the dangers of mobile phones. (AWARE)

5. He's invited me to his party. It would be to say no. (POLITE)

6. Too many children nowadays are growing up . (LITERATE)

7. That's not what I said! You've me. (UNDERSTAND)

8. My dog is completely . I promise he won't bite. (HARM)

9. The medicine was - he didn't recover. (EFFECT)

10. His answers were very so he failed the Maths exam. (ACCURATE)

11. It's that people will ever live on the moon. (LIKELY)

12. He waited for the train. (PATIENT)

13. It's to smoke in public places nowadays. (LEGAL)

14. I would never teach children. They always . (BEHAVE)

**EXERCISES**

1) **nouns from verbs -er / -or / - ian / -ist / -ant**

1. A person who acts for a living is called an .......... .

2. A ..... is someone who earns money from writing music.

3. She didn't become famous as a ..... until her 17th novel was published.

4. In Part 5 of the FCE Exam your speaking ability will be assessed by the ..... .

5. At the end of the interview the ..... asked if he could be shown around the company.

6. An ..... is someone who will be able to go through your accounts and work out how much money you have.

8. ..... to the castle are expected to come during visiting times only.

2) **Abstract nouns -tion/ -ation / -ment / -ness /- ance / -ence / -ency / -acy / -ity**

This exercise looks at forming nouns from verbs, nouns and adjectives by using suffixes.

1. My teacher says there has been a big (IMPROVE) .......... in my English lately.

2. Why did you do that? I thought you had more (INTELLIGENT) .......... than that.

3. The singer gave a briliant (PERFORM) .......... on stage yesterday.

4. Have you seen her magazine (COLLECT) ..........? She must have over 200 editions.

5. On hearing the news, everyone was overcome with a feeling of (SAD) .......... .

6. When you take the FCE Speaking paper you will be given marks for your (ACCURATE) .......... and also on how fluent you are.

7. She has the (ABLE) .......... to pass the exam first time round providing she works hard.

3**) Opposites in- im- il- un- -less dis- ir-**

1 When he became a teenager he wanted to be more (DEPENDENT) from his parents.

2 It was really (HONEST) of you to take that money without asking.

3 If you hadn't been so (CARE) with that book you'd still have it now.

4 My broken leg means I'll be (ABLE) to go on holiday with you.

5 In many countries it is (LEGAL) to smoke cigarettes under the age of 16.

6 He waited (PATIENTLY) for the train to arrive at the station.

7 The teacher told me it was (RESPONSIBLE) of me to set off the fire alarm.

4) **Forming verbs -en / -ify / -ize**

1. He told her that he (SYMPATHY) .......... with her problem but couldn't do anything to help.

2. My belt feels a bit tight after that huge lunch. I think I'll have to (LOOSE) .......... it a little.

3. She was severely (WEAK) .......... by the long illness she had.

4. There are many different ways to (CLASS) .......... areas of English Grammar.

5. There's no need to (CRITIC) .......... my work. I'm trying as hard as I can.