

Every Language of the world is a kind of well-knit and progressive huge family. Every word of that language is a member of that family. Therefore the development of the whole language depends upon the development of each word in it. Further, each word has its own family too, and its family also grows and develops by slow degrees. Every word has its origin in some **Primary** or **Base Word**. Many words are formed from each Primary word through a number of linguistic processes. Many new words are formed by the addition of **Prefixes** and **Suffixes** to the Primary words and their **Derivatives**, and these new words belong to different **Parts of Speech** and are of different **Numbers** and **Genders**. Thus, for example, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs, etc. can be formed from Nouns, and so on. The Vocabulary of a student can develop immensely by understanding and making use of these linguistic processes. Therefore, we give below a comprehensive list of **Suffixes** and **Prefixes** and the words formed by them.

Prefixes are used before and **Suffixes** after the Primary words or their Derivatives to form new words.

Let us first take the **Suffixes**. These Suffixes are called **Conversion Suffixes** because they convert the Primary words into different **Parts of Speech** and their **kinds**—

Suffixes

(1) Noun Suffixes

(i) Noun to Noun

- **an** : Republican, Indian, Russian.
- **ese** : Chinese, Japanese.
- **ist** : Florist, socialist, royalist.
- **ism** : idealism, absenteeism, Buddhism.
- **eer** : engineer, profiteer.

– **ery, – ry** : slavery, drudgery, machinery.

– **ful** : mouthful, handful, spoonful.

(ii) Common Noun to Abstract Noun

– **hood** : womanhood, boyhood, priesthood, knighthood.

– **dom** : officialdom, martyrdom, wisdom.

– **ship** : kingship, friendship, membership, fellowship.

(iii) Adjective to Noun (Abstract)

– **ness** : Happiness, kindness, gentleness, greatness.

– **ity** : seniority, diversity, activity, superiority.

(iv) Other words to Noun (Abstract)

– **t, th (With frequent changes in Vowels)** : high-height, thief-theft, dead-death, hot-heat.

(v) Verb to Noun

– **er, or** : driver, waiter, writer, actor, dictator.

– **ant** : consultant, informant, inhabitant, determinant.

– **ee** : payee, employee, nominee.

– **action** : dictation, citation, starvation, exploitation.

– **ment** : judgement, postponement, payment, government.

– **al** : arrival, dismissal, disposal, proposal.

– **ing** : painting, drawing, gardening, drinking.

– **age** : cartage, postage, usage, carriage.

(vi) Nouns made by change of Vowel or Consonant in the Verb

breathe-breath; lose-loss; lend-loan; feed-food; think-thought.

(2) Verb Suffixes**Noun / Adjective to Verb**

- (i) – **ify** : beautify, classify, modify, simplify, terrify.
 – **ize** : sympathize, humanize, memorize, idealize.
 – **en** : quicken, widen, heighten, strengthen.
- (ii) **Prefixes be–, en–, em–** : embitter, empower, enrage, encourage, bemoan, belittle.

(3) Adjective Suffixes**(i) Noun to Adjective**

- **ful** : beautiful, useful, helpful, bountiful.
 – **less** : harmless, useless, childless, meaningless.
 – **y, ly** : hairy, glassy, rosy, lovely, manly, brotherly.
 – **like** : childlike, teacherlike.
 – **ish** : selfish, girlish, foolish.
 – **some** : handsome, troublesome.
 – **worthy** : praiseworthy, trustworthy, air-worthy.
 – **al** : cultural, natural, agricultural.
 – **ive** : attractive, expensive, responsive.
 – **ous, eous, ious** : ambitious, injurious, pious, virtuous, famous, beautiful.
 – **ie** : heroic, scientific, emphatic.
 – **esque** : picturesque, statuesque.
 – **arian, ean** : authoritarian, Shakespearean.

(ii) Verb / Adjective to Adjective

- **able, ible** : dependable, readable, memorable, comprehensible, divisible.
 – **ish** : longish, bluish, greenish, smallish.
 – **ing** : running, rising, sinking, boiling.
 – **ed** : tired, walled, spotted, adopted.

(iii) Compound Adjectives**Present Participle**

- (– **ing**) : fast-moving train, long-suffering man, grass-cutting, high-flying.

Past Participle

- (– **ed, – t**) : long-haired, well-fed, thin-covered, wind-swept, well-kept.

Numerals

- : five-rupee note, three-storied, fifty-year old, fourteenth-century poet.

(4) Adverb Suffixes

- **ily, ly** : heavily, largely, painfully, greatly, easily.
 – **ward(s)** : downward(s), upward(s), heavenward(s), homeward(s).
 – **wise** : lengthwise, clockwise, money-wise.

A list of popular words converted into different parts of speech is given below :

(i) NOUNS INTO VERBS

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Authority – | Authorize | Class – | classify |
| Apology – | apologize | Colony – | colonize |
| Allusion – | allude | Collision – | collide |
| Blood – | bleed | Company – | accompany |
| Beauty – | beautify | Custom – | accustom |
| Body – | embody | Camp – | encamp |
| Circle – | encircle | Character – | characterize |
| Excellence – | Excel | Origin – | originate |
| Economy – | economize | Office – | officiate |
| Food – | feed | Perception – | perceive |
| Fool – | befool | Patron – | patronize |
| Force – | enforce | Peace – | pacify |
| Friend – | befriend | Person – | personify |
| Grass – | graze | Prison – | imprison |
| Glory – | glorify | Peril – | imperil |
| Gold – | gild | Power – | empower |
| Habit – | habituate | Right – | rectify |
| Harmony – | harmonize | Relief – | relieve |
| Haste – | hasten | Sermon – | sermonize |
| Height – | heighten | Shrine – | enshrine |
| Idol – | idolize | Slave – | enslave |
| Justice – | justify | Substance – | substantiate |
| Knee – | kneel | Throne – | enthrone/ dethrone |
| Loss – | lose | Title – | entitle |
| List – | enlist | Tomb – | entomb |
| Monopoly – | monopolize | Utility – | utilize |
| Magnet – | magnetize | Verse – | versify |
| Memory – | memorise | Vigour – | invigorate |
| Nature – | naturalize | Vacancy – | vacate |
| Notice – | notify | Victim – | victimize |
| Necessity – | necessitate | Vice – | vitiolate |

(ii) VERBS INTO NOUNS

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| Accomplish – | accomplish-ment | Respond – | response |
| Accompany – | accompaniment | Heal – | health |
| Acquit – | acquittal | Know – | knowledge |
| Bathe – | bath | Lend – | loan |
| Betray – | betrayal | Move – | motion |
| Conceive – | conception | Narrate – | narration |
| Commit – | commitment | Oblige – | obligation |
| Deceive – | deception | Persuade – | persuasion |
| Defy – | defiance | Please – | pleasure |
| Deny – | denial | Precise – | precision |
| Do – | deed | Pursue – | pursuit |
| Rely – | reliance | Redeem – | redemption |
| | | Urge – | urgency |
| | | Vary – | variety |

(iii) OTHER WORDS INTO ABSTRACT NOUNS

| | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Apt – | aptness | Long – | length |
| Beautiful – | beauty | Machine – | mechanism |
| Bond – | bondage | Regent – | regency |
| Beggar – | beggary | Servant – | service |
| Coward – | cowardice | Sad – | sadness |
| Courageous – | courage | Smooth – | smoothness |
| Dead – | death | Short – | shortness |
| Difficult – | difficulty | True – | truth |
| Deep – | depth | Weak – | weakness |
| Generous – | generosity | Wise – | wisdom |
| Hero – | heroism | Witch – | witchery |
| Infant – | infancy | Warm – | warmth |
| Jealous – | jealousy | Young – | youth |

(iv) ADJECTIVES INTO NOUNS

| | | | |
|-------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Able – | ability | Local – | locality |
| Acid – | acidity | Merry – | merriment |
| Brief – | brevity | Magnificent – | magnificence |
| Busy – | business | Notorious – | notoriety |
| Chaste – | chastity | Obedient – | obedience |
| Civil – | civility | Pious – | piety |
| False – | falsehood | Public – | publicity |
| Ferocious – | ferocity | Rival – | rivalry |
| Gay – | gaiety | Secret – | secrecy |
| Grand – | grandeur | Splendid – | splendour |
| Generous – | generosity | Vain – | vanity |
| Humble – | humility | Wide – | width |
| Just – | justice | Worthy – | worth |
| Liberal – | liberality | | |

(v) NOUNS INTO ADJECTIVES

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Advice – | advisable | Angel – | angelic |
| Air – | aerial | Authority – | authoritative |
| Angle – | angular | Autumn – | autumnal |
| Bounty – | bounteous | Merchant – | mercantile |
| Brass – | brazen | Metal – | metallic |
| Beast – | bestial | Medicine – | medicinal |
| Contempt – | contemptuous/contemptible | Merit – | meritorious |
| Calamity – | calamitous | Minister – | ministerial |
| Circle – | circular | Muscle – | muscular |
| College – | collegiate | Myth – | mythical |
| Conscience – | conscientious | Money – | monetary |
| Circumstance – | circumstantial | Night – | nocturnal |
| Emperor – | imperial | Nose – | nasal |
| Expectation – | expectant | Offence – | offensive |
| Example – | exemplary | Omen – | ominous |
| Enemy – | inimical | Population – | populous |
| Essence – | essential | Professor – | professorial |
| Explanation – | explanatory | Pathos – | pathetic |
| Fraud – | fraudulent | Picture – | picturesque/pictorial |
| Flower – | floral | Prejudice – | prejudicial |
| Fable – | fabulous | Problem – | problematic |
| Fever – | feverish | Palace – | palatial |
| Fate – | fatal | Ruin – | ruinous |
| Grief – | grievous | Superstition – | superstitious |
| Grass – | grassy | Sun – | solar |
| Hand – | handy | Star – | starry |
| Hypocrite – | hypocritical | Sedition – | seditious |
| Industry – | industrious | Service – | serviceable |
| Joy – | joyous | Secretary – | secretarial |
| Joke – | jocular | Study – | studious |
| Judge – | judicial | Tribe – | tribal |
| Licence – | licentious | Vice – | vicious |
| Lustre – | lustrous | Voice – | vocal |

(vi) FORMATION OF SOME TYPICAL ADJECTIVES

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------|----------------|
| Age – | senile | Church – | ecclesiastical |
| Brother – | fraternal | Dog – | canine |
| Blood – | sanguinary | Egg – | oval |
| Cat – | feline | Eye – | optical |
| City – | urban | Flesh – | carnal |
| Flock – | gregarious | Sun – | solar |
| Hair – | capillary | | |

| | | | |
|--------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Life – | vital | Tooth – | dental |
| Love – | amorous | Town – | urban |
| Moon – | lunar | Taste – | palatable |
| Punishment – | penal | Village – | rural |
| Salt – | saline | War – | martial |
| Sea – | marine | Woman – | effeminate |
| Ship – | naval | Watch – | vigilant |
| Sky – | etherial | Youth – | juvenile |
| Spring – | vernal | Year – | annual |

(vii) ADJECTIVES INTO VERBS

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| Able – | enable | Large – | enlarge |
| Abundant – | abound | Little – | belittle |
| Bitter – | embitter | Long – | prolong |
| Base – | debase | Mad – | madden |
| Clear – | clarify | Moist – | moisten |
| Civil – | civilize | Noble – | ennoble |
| Clean – | cleanse | Public – | publish |
| Different – | differentiate | popular – | popularise |
| Double – | duplicate | Poor – | impoverish |
| Dramatic – | dramatize | Perpetual – | perpetuate |
| Equal – | equalize | Pure – | purify |
| Fat – | fatten | Real – | realize |
| Fertile – | fertilize | Rich – | enrich |
| Firm – | confirm | Safe – | save |
| Fresh – | refresh | Sweet – | sweeten |
| Feeble – | enfeeble | Solid – | solidify |
| Fond – | fondle | Sure – | ensure |
| General – | generalize | Vile – | vilify |
| | | Venerable – | venerate |

(viii) VERBS INTO ADJECTIVES

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| Agree – | agreeable | Change – | changeful |
| Accept – | acceptable | Divide – | divisible |
| Bear – | bearable | Defend – | defensive |
| Break – | breakable | Desire – | desirable |
| Consider – | considerable | Deceive – | deceitful |
| Encourage – | courageous | Resist – | resistible |
| Fear – | fearful | Read – | readable |
| Gain – | gainful | Regret – | regrettable |
| Govern – | governable | Respect – | respectable |
| Harm – | harmful | Respond – | responsive |
| Hate – | hateful | Receive – | receptive |
| Imagine – | imaginative | Spend – | spendthrift |
| Injure – | injurious | Succeed – | successful |
| Loathe – | loathsome | Slip – | slippery |
| Marry – | marriageable | Solicit – | solicitous |
| Manage – | manageable | Taste – | tasteful |
| Meddle – | meddlesome | Tire – | tiresome |

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| Negotiate – | negotiable | Terrify – | terrific |
| Perish – | perishable | Transfer – | transferable |
| Punish – | punishable | Vary – | various |
| Permit – | permissible | Work – | workable |

Negative Prefixes and Suffixes

Antonyms are formed by adding the following **Prefixes** or **Suffixes** before or after some words—

(a) Prefixes

il—before words beginning with **l** (as **illegal**)

im—before **b, m, or p**, (as **imbalance, immature** or **impure**)

ir—before **r** (as **irreligious**)

in—before other letters (as **inability, independent**)

un—(as **untrue**)

dis—(as **disadvantage**)

non—(as **nonviolence, nonvegetarian, nonsense**)

(b) Suffix-less (as **graceless, meaningless, powerless)****(c) Verb Prefixes**

em—(as **empower, embody, embitter**)

en—(as **enable, ensure, encourage**)

re—(as **recall, remind, reopen**)

de—(as **devalue, decompose, decontrol**)

mis—(as **misunderstand, miscalculate**)

pre—(as **prepaid, prejudice**)

A list of popular Antonyms formed by Negative Prefixes is given below :

(i) il —

| | | | |
|------------|--------------|---------|-----------|
| Legal | illegal | Legible | illegible |
| Legitimate | illegitimate | Liberal | illiberal |
| Literate | illiterate | Logical | illogical |

(ii) im —

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| Balance | imbalance | Material | immaterial |
| Mature | immature | Measurable | immeasurable |
| Mobile | immobile | Modest | immodest |
| Moral | immoral | Mortal | immortal |
| Movable | immovable | Perfect | imperfect |
| Pertinent | impertinent | Pious | impious |
| Partial | impartial | Possible | impossible |
| Patient | impatient | Penitent | impenitent |
| Proper | improper | Prudent | imprudent |
| Pure | impure | | |

(iii) in—

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Ability | inability | Accessible | inaccessible |
| Accurate | inaccurate | Action | inaction |
| Adequate | inadequate | Animate | inanimate |
| Applicable | inapplicable | Artistic | inartistic |
| Coherent | incoherent | Competent | incompetent |
| Complete | incomplete | Consistent | inconsistent |
| Convenience | Correct | inconvenience | incorrect |
| Credible | incredible | Capable | incapable |
| Decent | indecent | Dependent | independent |
| Direct | indirect | Domitable | indomitable |
| Efficient | inefficient | Elegant | inelegant |
| Fallible | infallible | Formal | informal |
| Human | inhuman | Organic | inorganic |
| Secure | insecure | Sincere | insincere |
| Sufficient | insufficient | Tolerant | intolerant |
| Valid | invalid | Variable | invariable |
| Vulnerable | invulnerable | | |

(iv) ir—

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Rational | irrational | Recoverable | irrecoverable |
| Regular | irregular | Religious | irreligious |
| Reconcilable | irreconcilable | Removable | irremovable |
| Resolute | irresolute | Reparable | irreparable |
| Redeemable | irredeemable | Repressible | irrepressible |

(v) un—

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Able | unable | Answerable | unanswerable |
| Bearable | unbearable | Called-for | uncalled-for |
| Certain | uncertain | Comfortable | uncomfortable |
| Fit | unfit | Foreseen | unforeseen |
| Fortunate | unfortunate | Happy | unhappy |
| Known | unknown | Natural | unnatural |
| Pleasant | unpleasant | Seen | unseen |
| Social | unsocial | Thinkable | unthinkable |
| Timely | untimely | Usual | unusual |
| Well | unwell | | |

(vi) dis—

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Advantage | disadvantage | Agree | disagree |
| Agreeable | disagreeable | Appear | disappear |
| Appoint | disappoint | Close | disclose |
| Comfort | discomfort | Connect | disconnect |
| Credit | discredit | Encourage | discourage |
| Grace | disgrace | Honest | dishonest |
| Honour | dishonour | Like | dislike |
| Order | disorder | Qualification | disqualification |
| Regard | disregard | Respect | disrespect |
| Satisfaction | dissatisfaction | Service | disservice |
| Union | disunion | Unity | disunity |

(vii) less—

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Artful | artless | Careful | careless |
| Cheerful | cheerless | Colourful | colourless |
| Fruitful | fruitless | Graceful | graceless |
| Hopeful | hopeless | Harmful | harmless |
| Merciful | merciless | Powerful | powerless |
| Painful | painless | Remorseful | remorseless |
| Tasteful | tasteless | Thoughtful | thoughtless |