

# LESSON 172

## 1015 Common verb suffixes

Some common suffixes we use to form verbs are: "-en", "-ify", "-ize" (sometimes spelt "-ise") and "-ate".

For example, from the word "hard", we can make the verb "harden"; from the word "simple", we can make the verb "simplify"; from the word "standard", we can make the verb "standardize", and from the word "active", we can make the verb "activate".

Some other examples are: "soften", "ripen", "identify", "notify", "minimize" (or "minimise"), "computerize" (or "computerise"), "alternate" and "regulate".

Make a sentence containing a verb with the suffix "-en", please.

She uses a special cream to soften her skin.  
When a banana ripens, it turns yellow.

Make a sentence containing a verb with the suffix "-ify", please.

It was easy for the police to identify him as the man they were searching for.  
I have to notify my bank that my address has changed.

Make a sentence containing a verb with the suffix "-ize" (or "-ise"), please.

By making this a no-smoking area, we can minimize (or minimise) the risk of fire. When the office was computerized (or computerised), several members of staff lost their jobs.

Make a sentence containing a verb with the suffix "-ate", please.

He owns two cars and alternates between them.  
The government should regulate this industry more carefully.

## 1016 **initial**                      **initially**                      **amaze**                      **amazing**

What are your initials?                      My initials are M.F.R. (Mario Franco Rossi)

What's the average student's initial reaction to the Callan Method?  
The average ... is to be amazed by the speed of the lessons

Give me an example of the word "initially", please.                      Initially, I didn't like my new flatmate, but now I get on well with her

Which do you think's the most amazing animal in the world? I think ...

**when it comes to**                      **sit an exam**                      **limitation**

When it comes to sitting exams, do you tend to cope well or do nerves and stress affect your performance?                      When it comes to ..., ...

And when it comes to communicating in English, what would you say was your biggest limitation?                      When it ..., I'd say ...

**dimension**

What are the approximate dimensions of your Callan Method book?                      The dimensions ...

1017

**select**                      **selection**                      **recruit**

**personnel**                      **applicant**                      **accurate**

**vast**

When recruiting new personnel, why is it often difficult for companies to accurately judge job applicants and select the best people?                      When recruiting ..., it's ... because ...

In your opinion, is it better for a restaurant to have a vast selection of dishes on its menu rather than just a few?                      Yes, in my opinion, ...  
~ No, in my opinion, ...

Why?

**drive somebody crazy**

What kind of music drives you crazy?                      ... drives me crazy

**look up to**                      **look down on**

Name someone alive today that you think many people look up to.                      The name of ...

What's the opposite of "look up to"?                      The opposite ... "look down on"

Give me an example, please.                      For many years, he looked down on his brother for having wasted his university education

1018 **laundry**

**launderette**

If you don't own a washing machine, where do you have to go to do your laundry? If you don't ..., ... a launderette ...

**convert**

Where's the best place to convert foreign currency in this area?

The best ...

**even**

**uneven**

**plough**

**odd**

Why is a field very uneven to walk on just after it's been ploughed by a farmer?

A field ... because the earth has been turned over and over by the plough

What are odd numbers and even numbers? Odd numbers are 1, 3, 5, 7 etc., whereas even numbers are 2, 4, 6, 8 etc.

Is it healthy to drink the odd glass of red wine every now and again?

Yes, ...

What do we mean if we describe someone as odd?

If ..., we mean they are strange

1019 **get back**

If you were watching a procession in the street and a policeman told you to get back, what would he want you to do and why? If I were ..., he'd want me to move away from the procession, probably because I was standing dangerously close

If you left home at 4 o'clock and were away for an hour, at what time would you get back? If ..., ... 5 o'clock

Do you always get back what you lend other people?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

**digital**

**introduction**

In what ways has the introduction of digital cameras made photography easier?

The introduction ... photography is cheaper, photos are easier to edit etc.

**carbohydrate****protein****substitute**

Name something most people eat that's high in carbohydrates?

The name ... bread (or rice, potatoes, pasta etc.)

Why do vegetarians often use beans as a substitute for meat?

Vegetarians ... because, like meat, beans contain high levels of protein

1020

**scare****expose****reveal**

Why does the idea of being a passenger on a motorbike tend to scare people more than the idea of travelling in a car?

The idea of ... because motorbike passengers are exposed and more liable to get injured in an accident than passengers in a car

What do I mean if I say "The Prime Minister's secret was exposed in the press"?

If ..., you mean that the newspapers published a story revealing information that the Prime Minister had wanted to keep secret

**vague**

When you're on your way to meet someone but only have a vague idea of where you're going, what do you do?

When ..., I ask someone for directions, use the internet etc.

**spot****tiny****bring up**

What does the verb "to spot" mean?

The verb ... "to see" or "to notice"

If you spotted a tiny stain on the front of a friend's wedding dress a few hours before the ceremony itself, would you bring the matter up or just keep quiet?

If I spotted ..., I'd ...

**interior****exterior**

What do we call the inside and outside of a building or vehicle, for example?

We ... the interior and the exterior

- 1021 Do you think your parents spent a lot of money on decorating the interior of the home you grew up in? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

**appeal**

**worldwide**

What sort of sporting events have worldwide appeal? The sort of ... the Olympic Games, the World Cup etc.

Who do you usually appeal to when you need help desperately? When I ..., I usually appeal to my parents, a close friend of mine etc.

**announce**

**broadcast**

**corporation**

Why do international broadcasting corporations such as the BBC avoid using people with very strong regional accents to announce the news? International corporations such as ... because people around the world might have trouble understanding them

**neutral**

**gear**

**stationary**

**clutch**

If two of your friends start arguing, do you think it's always best to remain neutral? Yes, if ..., I think ... ~ No, if ..., I don't think ...

Which gear should a driver be in when stationary at traffic lights? A driver should be in neutral when ...

Which pedal do we have to put our foot on when we change gear in a car? We ... the clutch ...

Do mountaineers have to carry a lot of gear with them? Yes, mountaineers ...

- 1022 **setting** **be set** **surroundings**

Describe the general setting of the last film you saw, please. The last film I saw was set in ...

Was the house you grew up in set in pleasant surroundings? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

## as opposed to

Do you prefer doing physical exercise outside as opposed to in a gym?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

### Phrase exercise 3

From the four options given with each sentence, choose the one word that fits correctly in the gap.

- 1 I only got back from holiday yesterday, so I'm not really up to ... with developments at work yet. ( rate / level / speed / reach )
- 2 Your tooth will continue to hurt until the painkillers ... effect, which should be in about 15 minutes. ( have / cause / make / take )
- 3 Oliver was a great friend; I used to ... all my problems with him. ( share / divide / split / break )
- 4 Over the ... of the spring, the landscape changed enormously. ( course / term / run / stretch )
- 5 What an awful singer; he's completely out of ...! ( melody / sound / note / tune )
- 6 Eating fresh fruit regularly had a very positive impact ... her health. ( with / for / over / on )
- 7 I eventually ... to the conclusion that he'd been lying to me. ( went / came / reached / arrived )
- 8 I'll order a new printer next week but, for the time ..., we'll have to use the old one. ( waiting / being / keeping / doing )
- 1023 9 Of course he might refuse to help you but there's no ... in asking. ( harm / damage / cost / threat )
- 10 The number of young people studying abroad has been on the ... for the last five years or so. ( jump / increase / grow / fly )

- 11 It was the most boring party we've ever been to; it's just as ... you didn't come with us. ( fine / well / good / lucky )
- 12 He's making progress at school ... but it's taking longer than he thought it would. ( piece by piece / over and over / bit by bit / time to time )
- 13 I'm writing this email in the ... that you might be able to answer my question. ( event / hope / reason / case )
- 14 Some people say there's a ... line between being brave and being stupid. ( thin / fine / narrow / slight )
- 15 I like spicy food, but it doesn't really ... with me. ( sit / agree / go / suit )

 Dictation 119

There'll be little sorrow/ at the king's departure./ Am I going deaf/ or is our teacher quiet?/ It's almost like he's whispering sometimes!/ A war journalist needs to be/ both curious and courageous./ Whatever you do,/ don't spill that ink;/ it'd leave a terrible stain/ on the carpet./ I'm keen to sell this fruit/ as quickly as possible./ It's already looking/ a bit overripe,/ and we've got tons of it left./ The actual concert venue/ doesn't open till eight,/ so, meanwhile,/ why don't we enjoy/ the warmth of that bar?/ The film was ruined for her/ owing to the constant sound of sneezing/ from the row behind her./ Swallow, patience, cushion, decay, coward.