

LESSON 177

1059 Common prefixes (2)

dismal

Some more common prefixes that we use in English are: "pre-" (meaning "before"), "en-" (meaning "make" or "give"), "mis-" (meaning "wrong" or "bad"), and "ex-" (meaning "previous" or "out").

What meaning can the prefix "pre-" add to a word? The prefix ... "before" ...

Give me an example, please.

It's not fair to prejudge people

What meaning can the prefix "en-" add to a word?

The prefix ...

"make" or "give" ...

Give me an example, please.

She endears herself to everyone she meets with her great sense of humour. Could I entrust you with making all the necessary arrangements?

What meaning can the prefix "mis-" add to a word?

The prefix ...

"wrong" or "bad" ...

Give me an example, please.

The hotel customers had clearly been mistreated and were granted a full refund. It was his misfortune to be chosen to speak to the boss.

What meaning can the prefix "ex-" add to a word?

The prefix ...

"previous" or "out" ...

Give me an example, please.

He still communicates with his ex-wife. He was excluded from the team owing to his recent dismal performances.

1060 **soul**

Do you believe that humans have a soul that carries on living after death?

Yes, ... - No, ...

bother

out loud

Does it bother you when another passenger plays music out loud on public transport?

Yes, ... - No, ...

What do we mean when we say we can't be bothered to do something?

When ..., we mean that we are not willing to make the effort to do something

Give me an example, please.

I just can't be bothered to do my homework now; I'll do it tomorrow

manual

high-tech (hi-tech)

When you buy a new high-tech (hi-tech) product, do you read the instruction manual that comes with it?

Yes, when I ... ~ No, when I ...

What do we mean by a manual job?

By ..., we mean a job that involves physical work

exhibition

exhibit

At an art exhibition, what do we call each individual piece of art on show?

At ..., ... an exhibit

1061

grasp

What can happen if we don't grasp glass objects firmly enough when carrying them?

If we don't ..., they can fall onto the floor and smash into little pieces

politician

Why is it politicians don't always say in public what they say in private?

The reason politicians ... is that they're perhaps afraid that people would not vote for them

north-east

north-west

south-east

south-west

Whereabouts in England is London?

London's in the south-east of England

Is France north-east or north-west of Spain?

France is north-east of Spain

work out

If you have a problem in your personal life and you can't work out what to do, who do you turn to? If ... and I can't ..., I turn to a friend, my family etc.

1062

fashion**pop**

Why is it essential for people to behave in an orderly fashion in very crowded areas such as shopping centres and sports stadiums, or at pop concerts? The reason it's essential ... people can easily get hurt by being crushed against one another

valid

Is the money used in your country valid in any other country?

Yes, ... No, ...

keep back (stand back)

Why is it advisable to keep back from the edge of a race track when the cars shoot by? It's advisable to ... because a driver could lose control and crash into the crowd

drift**anchor****ashore**

What's the function of the anchor on a ship? The function ... to prevent the ship from drifting as a result of the current or wind

And in what circumstances might the crew need to drop anchor?

The crew might ... when they want to go ashore, but the water is too shallow to take the ship close to the shore

Why do good friends sometimes drift apart over time? Good friends ...

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workforce**make redundant****keep on**

When a company needs to reduce its workforce in order to stay in business, is it very hard to decide who to make redundant and who to keep on? Yes, when ..., it's ...

passion

What's your biggest passion in life?

My biggest ...

run down

run-down

Does your mobile battery run down more quickly now than it did when you first got the phone?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

Do you find you catch colds more easily when you're feeling run-down?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

run out of

What do you suppose will happen when the world runs out of its natural resources?

When the world ..., I suppose ...

classify

middle-aged

elderly

Would you classify people who are 40 years old as middle-aged?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

1064 And when would you start classifying a person as elderly?

I'd start ... at the age of about ...

contest

evident

Why do some people insist on entering TV talent contests despite the fact that they evidently have no ability whatsoever?

Some ... because they're desperate to become famous ...

dependant (dependent)

If you're asked to list your dependants when filling in an official form, what information should you supply?

If I'm asked ..., I should supply the names of any people who depend on me for financial support

headquarters

If you were the boss of a fashion company, which city would you consider the ideal location for your headquarters?

If ..., I'd consider ...

Why?

see off

If you were setting off on a trip round the world, who would you expect to come and see you off at the airport? If ..., I'd expect ...

1065

stocky

chubby

skinny

plump

imply

Name a famous person who's stocky? ... is a famous person who's stocky

Name a famous person who's chubby? ... is a famous person who's chubby

What's another word similar to "chubby"? Another ... "plump"

If we refer to someone as skinny rather than slim, what might this imply? If ..., it might imply that we think they should put on a bit of weight

come round

have over

payday (pay day)

When you have friends over, do you normally tidy up a little before they come round? Yes, ... - No, ...

How often does payday come round for most people? Payday ... once a month ...

How do patients usually feel when they come round after an operation? Patients ... confused, tired etc. when they ...

scan

inspect

customs

How come customs officers at most airports don't often need to inspect luggage manually these days? Customs officers ... because most airports have special machines that scan luggage instead

1066

What's the difference between scanning a document and photocopying a document? The difference ... is that scanning produces a digital copy of the document, whereas photocopying produces a paper copy

kit

Name a sport that one needs very little kit for. The name ...
very little kit ... football etc.

What kit does one need to play tennis? To play tennis, one needs a pair
of trainers, a racket and a tennis ball

mislead

subsequently

If you bought something in a shop but subsequently realized you'd been
misled by the sales person about the product, what would you do?
If ..., I'd ...

offence

rumour

Is it an offence in your country to spread false rumours about other
people? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

Do you take offence if someone criticizes your country? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

1067

Phrase exercise 5

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

- Let's go travelling for a year; it'll broaden our ... enormously.
(settings / landscape / horizons / scenery)
- The heavy rain caused a terrible flood, which in ... damaged the
economy of the region. (progress / depth / turn / future)
- Why is it ... your interest to report the problem to the police?
(against / in / out of / for)
- Finding his way around isn't one of Frank's strong ..., so don't be
surprised if he gets lost in London! (marks / spots / points / bits)
- Several of my friends have spoken to Aisha since she moved to
England and, ... all accounts, she's doing very well.
(with / by / from / for)
- Don't just leave your computer course; that'd be taking the ... way
out. Speak to your teacher about your problems.
(weak / quick / easy / silly)

- 7 David thinks the plan is risky, and, ... a sense, he's right.
(with / by / in / after)
- 8 All the songs in this new collection are loud, but the man ... the music is actually a very quiet individual.
(under / behind / over / in front of)
- 9 My request for a loan from the bank was not as successful as I'd hoped; ... short, I need to borrow money from someone.
(for / as / on / in)
- 10 There are no shops open this late, so we'll ... have to eat what's in the fridge.
(always / even / just / still)
- 11 Could you possibly keep ... on my bag while I go to the toilet?
(an eye / a look / a lock / an arm)
- 12 Can we stop running for a moment? I need a minute or two to ... my breath!
(find / draw / hold / catch)
- 13 I don't mind whether we go to Moscow or Beijing; it'll be a great experience in any ..., I'm sure. (affair / event / result / occasion)
- 14 Mark's life is changing all the time. I can never ... track of what he's doing!
(follow / make / hold / keep)
- 15 This will be an exciting year for the company. Who knows what ... ahead for us!
(comes / sits / lies / goes)

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The cyclist stopped/ to pump more air into his tyres,/ in the hope that this would ensure/ that he didn't get a puncture/ on the narrow, bumpy countryside lanes./ Leading the procession,/ looking far from graceful/ squeezed into his military uniform,/ was the monarch himself,/ accompanied by a dozen armed guards./ Have you no conscience?/ This is a clear case of prejudice!/ You certainly weren't exaggerating/ about the scenery;/ the bay looks simply magnificent/ from up here!/ Mike was aware/ that few journalists/ had ever been permitted/ a personal interview/ with the team's coach,/ who had acquired a reputation/ for being grumpy and even nasty/ with members of the press./ Accessory, suicide, bankrupt, relevant, author.

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