

LESSON 190

1183 Common adjective suffixes

Some common suffixes we use to form adjectives are: "-al", "-ive", "-ous", "-ic", "-y", "-able" and "-ible".

Some examples of such adjectives are "experimental", "progressive", "poisonous", "melodic", "sleepy", "predictable" and "reversible".

Make a sentence containing an adjective with the suffix "-al", please.

My grammatical knowledge of French is limited. The teacher made an intentional mistake to see if anyone would notice.

Make a sentence containing an adjective with the suffix "-ive", please.

It was a good performance and the audience were very responsive. Reports suggest an explosive device has been found in the building.

Make a sentence containing an adjective with the suffix "-ous", please.

This food is very tasty but not very nutritious. Many of us may become ill because this disease is highly infectious.

Make a sentence containing an adjective with the suffix "-ic", please.

Why did you make such an idiotic decision? If you like dramatic stories, you'll definitely enjoy this book.

Make a sentence containing an adjective with the suffix "-y", please.

The laptop was faulty so I returned it to the shop. It may be a risky thing to do but I think it's your best option.

1184 Make a sentence containing an adjective with the suffix "-able", please.

This part of town is becoming highly desirable. He's not particularly clever but he's very likeable.

Make a sentence containing an adjective with the suffix "-ible", please.

My mother's chocolate cakes are irresistible. The website won't be accessible to anyone outside the university.

meagre

rise

If you were working for a meagre salary and knew that people in other companies were performing the same role as you for far more money, would you demand a rise?

Yes, if I ... ~ No, if I ...

frail

Why is it advisable for frail elderly people to walk with a stick?

It's ... they're likely to hurt themselves if they fall over

take to

mutual

Why is it that we sometimes take to a person quickly when we chat with them for the first time?

We sometimes ... because we discover we have mutual interests, a similar sense of humour etc

sheer

Name a field of work in which you think sheer determination and hard work are not enough for a person to succeed.

I think ... is a field of work in which sheer ...

1185 So, what else do you think is necessary for success?

I think ...

agile

Name a species of animal that we often think of as being extremely agile.

The cat ...

would sooner

docile

rowdy

If you were a teacher, would you sooner have a docile class or one that tended to be a bit rowdy?

If ..., I'd sooner ...

Why?

let alone

Give me an example of the phrase "let alone", please. He couldn't run to catch a bus, let alone complete a marathon!

hop**frog**

When frogs are on land, do they usually walk or hop? When ..., they usually hop

What does the verb "hop" mean when it's used to describe the way a person is moving? When the verb "hop" ..., it means to jump on one leg only

inherit**take after**

Which would you say it was best to inherit: brains, beauty or money? I'd say ...

1186 In terms of character, who do you take after more: your mother or your father? In terms of character, I take after my ... more than my ...

write up

Why is it a good idea for university students to write up any notes they take during a lecture? It's ... because it helps them to remember the information and gives them a tidier and more complete record of the lecture

duck

What am I doing? You're ducking down as if you were trying to avoid being hit or seen

gauge**precise**

What are the two meanings of the verb "gauge"? The two ... "measure precisely" and "estimate or judge"

Give me an example of each, please. We must gauge the width of the window before cutting the glass to fit. It's hard to gauge whether he's suitable for the job.

embrace

Is it the custom in your country for friends to embrace if they haven't seen each other for a while? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

shove**tug**

What does the word "tug" mean?

The word "tug" means "pull hard"

And what does the word "shove" mean?

The word "shove"
means "push hard"

Give me an example of each, please.

I tugged too hard and the
old door handle came off in my hand.
She shoved me into the swimming pool as a joke.

drop out

What reason might someone have for dropping out of an academic course?

Someone might drop out ...
because they find it boring, too difficult etc.

thrash

Have you ever been thrashed by an opponent when playing sport?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

Is it strange to think that schoolteachers used to be allowed to thrash pupils as a punishment?

Yes, it's strange ...

assertive

What do we mean by an assertive person?

By an assertive person,
we mean someone who communicates
their feelings clearly and firmly in order to
get what they want, but without being aggressive

1188 Name a situation in which it's important to behave assertively.

It's important ... when you're asking
for a pay rise, demanding a refund etc.

cling – clung – clung**clutch**

What are the three forms of the verb "cling"?

The three ...
"cling, clung, clung"

Why might a small child cling on to their mother's arm in a crowd?

A small child might ...
because they're scared of getting lost

Which other verb is similar in meaning to "cling"?

"Clutch" is ...

Give me a sentence containing the verb "clutch", please. She clutched her bag tightly as she got into the crowded underground train

revolve

Does the earth revolve around the sun, or vice versa?

The earth
revolves around the sun

exert

policy

Do religious institutions still exert the same influence on government policy in your country as they used to?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

dismay

setback

get over

When you feel dismayed because of a setback in your life, do you tend to get over it quickly or does it take you a while to bounce back?

When I feel ..., ...

1189

carefree

Would you describe yourself as having a fairly carefree attitude to life?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

staircase

flight of stairs

How many staircases are there in this building?

There is/are ...

And how many flights of stairs are there?

There is/are ...

culprit

convict

get off

remorse

When the culprit of a crime is convicted, is the person likely to get off more lightly if they've shown genuine remorse during their trial? Yes, if ...

entrust

Have you ever entrusted a complete stranger with looking after your belongings while you've visited the toilet in a coffee shop or on a train?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

hardship

What's the greatest hardship you've ever had to suffer? The greatest ...

1190 jolt

What am I pretending that someone's doing to me whilst I am writing?

You're pretending that someone's jolting your elbow ...

What, therefore, does the word "jolt" mean? The verb "jolt" means to shake, knock or bump

stroll

What does the verb "stroll" mean? The verb "stroll" means to walk in a relaxed and unhurried manner

Do you ever go for a stroll in a nearby park? Yes, ... - No, ...

side-effect

widespread

Do most medicines in widespread use have unpleasant side-effects on some people? Yes, most ...

1191 Word-building exercise 4

For each sentence below, change the word printed at the beginning so that it fits correctly into the gap. Put your answer on the right.

Answers

e.g.	luck	She was ... to win the game.	<u>lucky</u>
1	appropriate	As the men were dressed ..., they were not permitted to enter the restaurant.	_____
2	contest	Each ... has to perform one song in front of a live audience.	_____
3	chaos	The performance was rather ... even though we'd planned everything carefully.	_____

- 4 **stable** The bridge is probably safe but we're carrying out some work to improve its ... in high winds.
- 5 **global** I'm not sure ... has been good for the economy of my country.
- 6 **recognize** Whenever I mention his name, there's a sign of ... on her face.
- 7 **descend** She is a direct ... of the ancient king himself.
- 8 **resign** He can't have handed in his ...; only yesterday he was saying what a great company this was!
- 9 **comprehend** She's bound to win the race; it'd be absolutely ... if she didn't.
- 10 **dispose** The ... of plastic waste is a big issue for my local council.
- 11 **include** His ... in the team has come as a shock to most of the other players at the club.
- 12 **compliment** I felt very flattered because she made loads of ... remarks about my new house.
- 13 **respect** It was ... of her to turn up late for her brother's wedding and then not even apologize.
- 14 **observe** Don't expect Tony to notice your haircut; he's probably the most ... person I've ever met.
- 15 **know** Ask Mike; he's quite ... about that kind of thing.

With so many passengers/ squashed into the carriage/ in the intense heat,/ it came
as no surprise/ when someone passed out./ Frank was a shabby sight,/ soaked
to the skin/ and muttering angrily to himself/ as he squelched across the kitchen
floor/ in his boots./ Don't allow any rowdy groups of men/ into the club;/ they're
bound to cause chaos./ It's tricky to gauge/ how much we can expect to gain/ by
investing in the scheme./ Obviously, we're hoping prices soar./ Don't just nibble
the crust;/ take a big bite./ I feel she came across/ as knowledgeable and very
enthusiastic/ in the interview,/ and I took to her immediately./ After the rehearsal,/
the director mingled with the cast/ in the theatre bar./ Grudge, smoulder, orphan,
insight, throb.

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