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Prepara
tu 

SECTION 01
Word Formation

B2

SECTION 01

Word Formation



En esta primera sección trabajaremos lo que en inglés denominamos “*word formation*” o como decís los hispanohablantes, ‘formación de palabras’ o ‘familia de palabras’.

¿QUÉ ES?

Se trata de un conjunto de palabras que tienen la misma raíz (una parte que se repite en todas las palabras) pero distinto prefijo o sufijo.

EJEMPLO

verbo: **to accuse**

sustantivo: **accusation**

adjetivo: **accusing**

Aquí la raíz es “**accus-**” (se repite en todos los casos) y vemos que, según el sufijo que agregamos a la raíz, obtenemos un verbo (“**to accuse**”), sustantivo (“**accusation**”) o adjetivo (“**accusing**”).

Veamos algunos casos de ‘formación de palabras’ con los diferentes sufijos:

VERBO → SUSTANTIVO

SUFIJO	ACEPCIÓN	EJEMPLOS
■ verbo + er/or	Forma un sustantivo que describe el oficio de alguien o lo que hace alguien .	work – worker invest – investor
■ verbo + er	Forma un sustantivo que describe lo que hace algo .	cook – cooker* dry – dryer
■ verbo + ance/ence	Forma un sustantivo abstracto .	admit – admittance emerge – emergence
■ verbo + ment	Forma un sustantivo abstracto .	achieve – achievement enjoy – enjoyment
■ verbo + (a)tion/ (i)tion /sion	Forma un sustantivo abstracto .	educate – education occupy – occupation
■ verbo + ant/ent	Forma un sustantivo que describe lo que hace alguien .	study – student assist – assistant
■ verbo/sustantivo + ee	Forma un sustantivo que describe lo que hace alguien o quién es alguien .	train – trainee refuge – refugee
■ verbo/sustantivo + ing	Forma un sustantivo que describe un objeto o una acción .	build – building swim – swimming

* ¡Así es! “**A cooker**” se refiere a unos ‘fogones’ y no a ‘un cocinero’, que se traduce como “**a cook**”. ¡No lo olvidés!

VERBO → ADJETIVO

■ verbo + ive	Forma un adjetivo que describe la naturaleza de algo o alguien .	attract – attractive support – supportive
■ verbo + able	Forma un adjetivo que describe la posibilidad de una acción .	drink – drinkable break – breakable

SUSTANTIVO → ADJETIVO

■ sustantivo + ful	Forma un adjetivo que muestra que existe una cualidad .	beauty – beautiful harm – harmful
■ sustantivo + less	Forma un adjetivo que muestra que falta una cualidad .	thought – thoughtless use – useless
■ sustantivo modificado + al/ous/ical	Forma un adjetivo (sin especificar).	practice – practical anxiety – anxious

SUSTANTIVO → SUSTANTIVO

■ sustantivo + eer	Forma un sustantivo que expresa la actividad que lleva a cabo alguien .	auction – auctioneer engine – engineer
■ sustantivo/verbo/adjetivo + ist	Forma un sustantivo que expresa la creencia u ocupación de alguien.	art – artist communism – communist
■ sustantivo + hood	Forma un sustantivo abstracto .	boy – boyhood parent – parenthood
■ sustantivo + ship	Forma un sustantivo abstracto .	champion – championship friend – friendship

ADJETIVO → ADVERBIO

■ adjetivo + ly	Forma un adverbio (sin especificar).	flawless – flawlessly unexpected – unexpectedly
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ADJETIVO → SUSTANTIVO

■ adjetivo + ity	Forma un sustantivo abstracto .	credible – credibility flexible – flexibility
■ adjetivo + ness	Forma un sustantivo abstracto .	good – goodness happy – happiness

ADJETIVO / SUSTANTIVO → VERBO

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ adjetivo + ize (US) / ise (UK) ■ sustantivo + ize (US) / ise (UK) 	Forma un verbo que generalmente se traduce como ‘-izar’.	personal – personalize computer – computerize
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ adjetivo + ify ■ sustantivo + ify 	Forma un verbo (sin especificar).	intense – intensify identity – identify
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ adjetivo + en ■ sustantivo + en 	Forma un verbo (sin especificar).	short – shorten strength – strengthen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ en* + adjetivo ■ en* + sustantivo 	Forma un verbo (sin especificar).	large – enlarge danger – endanger

* Fíjate que “en-” no solamente puede ser un sufijo sino también un prefijo para formar un verbo.

Ahora, te presentamos los prefijos más comunes:

PREFIJO	ACEPCIÓN	EJEMPLOS
■ ex- + sustantivo	previo	wife – ex-wife director – ex-director
■ pre- + sustantivo/verbo	antes	arrangement - pre-arrangement record – pre-record
■ post + sustantivo/verbo	después	production – postproduction graduate – postgraduate
■ over + verbo	demasiado	cook – overcook sleep – oversleep
■ under + verbo	no suficiente / poco	cook – undercook estimate – underestimate
■ pro + adjetivo/sustantivo	en favor de	American – pro-American choice – pro-choice
■ anti + adjetivo/sustantivo	contra	bacterial – antibacterial smoking – anti-smoking
■ anti + adjetivo/sustantivo	opuesto	social – antisocial clockwise – anti-clockwise UK (counter-clockwise US)
■ i(l) + adjetivo	opuesto	legal – illegal legitimate – illegitimate
■ im + adjetivo	opuesto	possible – impossible polite – impolite
■ in + adjetivo	opuesto	direct – indirect discreet – indiscreet

■ ir + adjetivo	opuesto	regular – irregular rational – irrational
■ dis + verbo	negativo / opuesto	like – dislike appear – disappear
■ un + verbo/adjetivo	negativo / opuesto	tie – untie happy – unhappy
■ de + sustantivo	opuesto	frost – defrost forest – deforest
■ de + verbo	sacar / quitar	bone – debone cypher – decypher
■ mono + sustantivo	uno	syllable – monosyllable rail – monorail
■ multi + sustantivo/adjetivo	muchos	purpose – multipurpose cultural – multicultural
■ super + sustantivo/adjetivo	más grande que	star – superstar natural – supernatural
■ mini + sustantivo	muy pequeño	hamburger – minihamburger bus – minibus
■ sub + sustantivo	menos	committee – subcommittee director – subdirector
■ sub + sustantivo	debajo	way – subway marine – submarine
■ sub + adjetivo	debajo / bajo	standard – substandard titled – subtitled
■ co + sustantivo/verbo	juntos	worker – co-worker exist – coexist
■ semi + sustantivo/adjetivo	medio	circle – semicircle detached – semidetached
■ semi + adjetivo	parcialmente	conscious – semiconscious skimmed – semi-skimmed
■ out + verbo	más	grow – outgrow guess – outguess
■ inter + adjetivo	entre	national – international continental – intercontinental
■ trans + sustantivo/verbo/adjetivo	cruzando	plant – transplant scribe – transcribe Siberian – trans-Siberian
■ mis + verbo	equivocadamente / mal	interpret – misinterpret spell – misspell

Antes de ponerlo en práctica, te mostramos algunas diferencias de *spelling* que hay entre el *British English* y el *American English*:

UK	US	UK	US
modelling	modeling	realise	realize
travelled	traveled	harmonise	harmonize
centre	center	cheque	check
metre	meter	chequer	checker
analogue	analog	defense	defense
catalogue	catalog	license	license
colour	color		
labour	labor		

Vamos a poner en práctica **“word formation”** con algunas de las palabras que aparecen en la siguiente tabla, que como verás, empiezan con las letras ‘a’ y ‘b’:

■ able	unable, (in)ability, disable, disabled, disability, enable	■ annoy	annoyance, annoying
■ account	accountant, accounting, accountable	■ announce	announcement, (un)announced, announcer
■ achieve	achievement, (un)achievable	■ annual	annually, biannual(ly)
■ act	(in)active(ly), acting, actor, actress, action, (in)activity	■ anxiety	anxious(ly)
■ actual	actually	■ apology	apologise
■ adequate	adequately, (in)adequate(ly)	■ appear	(dis)appearance, disappear, apparent(ly)
■ advertise	advertisement, ad(vert), advertising, advertiser	■ appropriate	inappropriate, appropriately
■ advise	advice, adviser, advisability, advisable	■ approve	approval, disapproval
■ agree	disagree, (dis)agreement	■ approximate	approximately, approximation
■ alive	live	■ appreciate	appreciation
■ amaze	amazement, amazing	■ argue	argument, argumentative(ly)
■ ambition	ambitious	■ arrange	rearrange, arrangement, pre-arrangement
■ american	pro-american, anti-american	■ arrive	arrival
■ amuse	(un)amusing, amused, (un)amusingly, amusement	■ art	artist, artistic(ally)

■ associate	disassociate, association, (un)associated	■ assist	assistance, assistant
■ attend	attention, (in)attentive, attendant, (in)attentive(ly), attendance	■ bear	(un)bearable
■ attract	(un)attractive(ly), attraction	■ behave	misbehave, (mis)behaviour
■ auction	auctioneer	■ believe	(un)believable, (dis)belief
■ avoid	avoidance, (un)avoidable	■ bitter	bitterly, bitterness
■ aware	unaware, (un)awareness	■ bore	boredom, boring, bored
■ balance	(un)balanced	■ breath	breathe, breathing
■ basis	basic(ally), basics	■ bright	brighten (up), brightness

EXERCISES

01. Complete the sentences by changing the form of the word in capital letters.

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| a) If she had the _____ to lead the masses, she'd be President by now. ABLE | a) ability |
| b) She should have become an _____, like me. ACCOUNT | b) accountant |
| c) She can _____ anything she sets her mind to. ACHIEVEMENT | c) achieve |
| d) He's involved in quite a lot of _____. ACT | d) activities |
| e) She's _____ much friendlier than you think. ACTUAL | e) actually |
| f) I could tell he was _____ as soon as he opened his mouth. AMBITION | f) ambitious |
| g) _____, she pays around a third of her salary in taxes. ANNUAL | g) Annually |
| h) She used to be a lot more _____ before she took up yoga. ANXIETY | h) anxious |
| i) She always _____, even if she's right. APOLOGY | i) apologises |

02. Circle the correct option in the sentences below.

a) We'll probably advertise / advertisement it in the local paper.	a) advertise
b) If you had followed my advise / advice , you wouldn't be in this situation.	b) advice
c) If we had reached an agree / agreement , I would have sold the house then and there.	c) agreement
d) Was your great grandfather still live / alive when you were born?	d) alive
e) Much to my amazement / amaze , she looked just like my mother.	e) amazement
f) We won't make the announce / announcement unless our managing director approves it.	f) announcement
g) I'm not used to apologising / apology , so enjoy it while you can!	g) apologising
h) From his appearance / appear , it looks like he's been out all night.	h) appearance
i) I wish you had an appreciate / appreciation for the finer things in life.	i) appreciation
j) He needed the approval / approve of two directors, didn't he?	j) approval

Antes de seguir practicando "word formation", vamos a trabajar el siguiente **Grammar Point**:

GRAMMAR POINT: THE THREE CONDITIONALS



Future conditional (1st conditional): "will" + basic verb + "if" + present simple

Me **quedaré** en casa si mañana **llueve**.

I **will stay** at home if it **rains** tomorrow.

Si mañana **llueve**, **me quedaré** en casa.

If it **rains** tomorrow, I **will stay** at home.

No olvides la regla de oro que repetiremos hasta la saciedad: jamás aparece "will" después de "if" en una cláusula condicional.

Present conditional (2nd conditional): "would" + basic verb + "if" + simple past

Hablaría portugués si **viviera** en Lisboa.

I **would speak** Portuguese if I **lived** in Lisbon.

Si **viviera** en Lisboa, **hablaría** portugués.

If I **lived** in Lisbon, I **would speak** Portuguese.

La regla de oro no varía: jamás aparece "would" después de "if" en una cláusula condicional.

GRAMMAR POINT: THE THREE CONDITIONALS

Past conditional (3rd conditional): would have + past participle + if + past perfect

No **habría estado** malo toda la noche si **hubiera comido** menos en la fiesta.

I **wouldn't have been** ill all night if I **had eaten less** at the party.

Si **hubiera comido** menos en la fiesta, **no habría estado** malo toda la noche.

If I **had eaten less** at the party, I **wouldn't have been** ill all night.

Y una vez más, ¡jamás aparece **“would have”** después de **“if”** en una cláusula condicional! Ten en cuenta además que no solamente **“would”** se contrae a **“d”** con el sujeto (**“I'd like”** = **“I would like”**), sino también **“had”**. Decimos, por ejemplo, **“If I'd eaten less at the party,...”**, que corresponde a **“If I had eaten less at the party”** y no **“If I would eaten less at the party”**, lo cual sería incorrecto.

03. Now that you know how the three conditionals work, complete the following conditional sentences by changing the form of the word in capital letters.

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| a) If I need any _____, I'll call you first thing in the morning. ASSIST | a) assistance |
| b) If you can keep a secret, I'll tell you who the _____ were. ATTEND | b) attendants |
| c) I'd eat a _____ diet if I were a marathon runner. BALANCE | c) balanced |
| d) If the campaign were controversial, it would get a lot more _____. ATTEND | d) attention |
| e) If you need any help or advice, my _____ will be standing by. ASSIST | e) assistant |
| f) She would have _____ if you'd come to visit. BRIGHT | f) brightened up |
| g) If you didn't get the job, you'd be _____ disappointed too. BITTER | g) bitterly |
| h) I'd talk to her about her _____ if she were here today. BEHAVE | h) behaviour |