

Adjectives to nouns

A lot of adjectives can be changed to nouns by the addition of a suffix (e.g., brave - bravery, equal - equality, etc), or by changing other features of the word (e.g., proud - pride, sympathetic - sympathy, etc). Some nouns need a prefix and a suffix, depending on how they are being used (e.g., equal = equality or inequality)

Task 1. Look at these sentences, and decide if the nouns in bold are correct or incorrect (the key adjectives are in brackets at the end of each sentence). Look at the meaning of the whole sentence before you decide, and don't forget to check the spelling.

1. I'm not sure you're old enough to be given such a **responsibility**. (responsible)
2. Although there are several **differents** between British and American English, there are also many **similarity**. (different / similar)
3. It was a terrible lesson, the **hotness** in the room was unbearable, we were almost falling asleep with **boredom**, and our stomachs were rumbling with **hungryness**. (hot / bored / hungry)
4. I asked her if she was telling the **trueth**. (true)
5. The check-in staff said that the flight was late and apologised for the **convenience**, although they didn't show much **sympathetically**. (convenient / sympathetic)
6. They almost died of **thirstiness** before they were rescued. (thirsty)
7. Your calculations are **wrong**; there are several **accuracies**. (accurate)
8. We had to measure the **length**, the **width** and the **depth** of the swimming pool, and then measure the **hight** of the diving board. (long / wide / deep / high)
9. She experienced a lot of **happyness** and **lonelyness** in her lifetime; her parents died when she was still in her **youth**, her first husband left her, and her only child ran away from home. (happy / lonely / young)
10. He lacked **confidence** in his **ableness**, and seemed unaware of his own **intelligence**. (confident / able / intelligent)
11. There's a strong **probableness**, perhaps even a **certainty**, that he's going to get a grade A in the exam. (probable / certain)

Task 2. Here are some more adjectives which can be made into nouns. How many can you change?

pessimistic • patient • mature • optimistic • honest • brave
 accurate • selfish • possible • inferior • violent • stupid
 foolish • anxious • reliable • loyal • popular • warm
 necessary • safe • realistic • ill • proud • superior • strong

Compound adjectives

A compound adjective is a combination of two words which function as a single adjective. The two words are often joined with a hyphen.

Task 1. Join one word on the left with one word on the right to make compound adjectives.

absent-	•	dark-	•	eye-
fair-	•	half-	•	hand-
hard-	•	home-	•	run-
short-	•	semi-	•	sun-
three-	•	well-	•	world-

burnt	•	catching	•	detached
down	•	eyed	•	famous
haired	•	hearted	•	made
minded	•	off	•	read
sighted	•	skilled	•	skinned
star	•	tanned	•	up

Task 2. Use the compound adjectives to complete the following sentences.

- We stayed in a _____ hotel on the seafront.
- Everybody has heard of Mel Gibson; he's a _____ actor.
- After six hours on the beach, he had a terribly _____ face.
- I can't see very clearly. I'm a bit _____.
- It wasn't a particularly _____ tennis racket; it broke soon after I bought it.
- She was wearing an _____ dress that made heads turn as she walked through the room.
- All these items are _____ by skilled craftsmen in a local factory.
- I feel a bit _____. Perhaps I should take more vitamins.
- My wife comes from a _____ family; they've always had more money than my own family.
- My grandfather's becoming very _____. Last week he went to the library in his slippers.
- To make a bit of money, my sister and I used to sell _____ cakes.
- He made a _____ attempt to take an interest, but it was obvious he didn't want to be there.
- My father is a very _____ man. His favourite authors are Orhan Pamuk and Umberto Eco.
- I live in a rather plain _____ house on the outskirts of Nottingham.
- There are lots of jobs for _____ workers in the factories in my area.

Compound nouns

A compound noun is a combination of two words which function as a single noun.

- Some compound nouns can be written as one word. e.g., headache (head + ache).
- Some compound nouns can be joined using a hyphen (-). e.g., half-brother.
- Some compound nouns must be written as two words. e.g., television set.

There are no rules to tell us how a compound noun should be written. We have to learn each one individually.

Task 1. Join one word on the left with one word on the right to make compound nouns. In some cases, more than one combination is possible.

air • airline • book fairy
 • food • football hair
 • home • income moon •
 parking • police question • race
 • shoe stamp • sun • table
 traffic • time • tooth • water

basin • boots • case collection
 • dryer • glasses laces • light •
 lights mark • meter • paste
 • pilot poisoning • pollution
 relations • station • story
 table • tax • tennis • work

Task 2. Use the compound nouns above to complete the following sentences. You may need to change the forms of some of the words.

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1. When I was young, my parents used to tell me _____ about witches and giants and other strange creatures.
2. We had to wait for the _____ to turn green before we were able to continue.
3. Don't leave this plant in the shade; it needs lots of _____.
4. In my home city, there is a lot of bad _____ as a result of the large number of cars and industrial factories.
5. _____ in my city are very bad. There are often fights between black and white youths.
6. The more money you earn, the more _____ you have to pay to the government.
7. On my last holiday, I had terrible _____ as a consequence of eating some bad fish.
8. I tripped over my _____ and ended up with a broken arm.
9. Don't forget to put some money in the _____ or the traffic wardens will give you a ticket.
10. When does our train leave? Why don't you check the _____ ?
11. I enjoy playing all ball games, but my favourite must be _____.
12. When you write a question, don't forget to put a _____ at the end of the sentence.
13. I enjoy my English lessons, but sometimes our teacher gives us too much _____.
14. I've got a huge _____. I started it when I was six. My favourite comes from an island in the South Pacific.
15. We could see the path in front of us clearly in the _____, although everything else around us was dark.

Confusing pairs and false friends

Confusing pairs are two words which have a similar meaning to each other, but are used in a different way.

or are related to the same topic, but have a different meaning.

or look similar, but have a different meaning

A false friend is a word in English which has a similar-looking word in another language but which has a different meaning.

Complete the following sentences with the appropriate word.

1. actually / now

Please can we go home _____ ?

It looks quite small, but _____ it is over five metres high.

2. advice / advise

My grandfather gave me a very useful piece of _____ .

I _____ you to put all your money into a deposit account.

3. affect / effect

The cuts in spending will have a serious _____ on the hospital.

The strike will seriously _____ the train service.

4. already / yet

I haven't seen her _____ this morning.

I've _____ done my shopping.

5. afraid of / worried about

I am _____ snakes.

She's _____ the baby; he doesn't look very well.

6. avoid / prevent

The police will _____ anyone from leaving the building.

You should travel early to _____ the traffic jams.

7. beside / besides

Come and sit down _____ me.

_____ managing the shop, he also teaches in the evening.

8. bring / fetch

It's your turn to _____ the children from school.

Don't forget to _____ the books to school with you.

9. chance / possibility

Our team has a good _____ of winning tonight.

There is always the _____ that the plane will be early.

10. channel / canal

You can take a boat trip around the _____s of Amsterdam.

Can you switch the television to _____ 4 for the news?

England and France are separated by the _____ .

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Confusing pairs and false friends

11. conduct / direct
Von Karajan will _____ the Berlin Symphonic Orchestra at the concert.
It took two policemen to _____ the traffic.

12. continuous / continual
She has been in _____ pain for three days.
I am getting fed up with her _____ complaints.

13. driver / chauffeur
The _____ brought the Rolls Royce to the hotel's main entrance.
He's got a job as a bus _____ .

14. formidable / wonderful
They had a _____ holiday by a lake in Sweden.
The castle is surrounded by _____ walls and gates.

15. fun / funny
I didn't have much _____ on my birthday.
He made _____ faces and made the children laugh.

16. go / play
Shall we _____ jogging or swimming?
Neither. Let's _____ tennis.

17. come along with / follow
Would you like to _____ me to the cinema tonight?
Make sure the dog doesn't _____ me to the shops.
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18. harm / damage
Don't _____ my sunglasses if you borrow them.
He didn't mean to _____ your little girl.

19. invent / discover
Did Alexander Fleming _____ penicillin?
When did she _____ the new computer terminal?

20. job / work
He goes to _____ every day on his bicycle.
She's got a _____ in the supermarket.

21. kind / sympathetic
You should always be _____ to little children.
I'm very _____ to her problems.

22. lay / lie
I'm very tired; I'll just go and _____ down for a few minutes.
My father is going to _____ a new carpet in the dining room.

23. lend / borrow
Can I _____ your car to go to the shops?
He asked me if I would _____ him £5 till Monday.

Confusing pairs and false friends

24. nature / countryside

We must try to protect _____ and the environment.

The English _____ is beautiful in spring.

25. pass / take

She had to _____ her driving test three times before she was able to _____.

26. practice / practise

You need more _____ before you're ready to take the exam.

Don't forget to _____ your phrasal verbs.

27. priceless / valueless

Be very careful with that painting; it's _____.

Her jewels were all imitations; they were quite _____.

28. principal / principle

She refuses to eat meat on _____.

The _____ wants to see you in her office.

The country's _____ products are paper and wood.

We talked about the _____s of nuclear physics.

29. raise / rise

Does the sun _____ in the east or the west?

The airline are going to _____ their fares again next year.

30. recipe / receipt

Goods cannot be exchanged unless a sales _____ is shown.

I gave her an Indian _____ book for her birthday.

31. remember / remind

Would you _____ me to finish early tonight?

Did you _____ to switch off the kitchen light?

32. scenery / view

I adore the beautiful _____ in the Lake District.

You can get a good _____ of the sea from the church tower.

33. sensible / sensitive

She's very _____ and is easily upset.

Staying indoors was a _____ thing to do in this terrible weather.

34. take / bring

Can you _____ this cheque to the bank for me please?

Can I _____ my girlfriend here for tea?



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Contrast and comparison

Complete these sentences with the most appropriate word or expression from A, B or C.

1. Her political opinions are the ____ mine.
A. same like B. same to C. same as
2. The weather in my country is very ____ that in the United Kingdom.
A. similar with B. similar to C. similar like
3. My idea of a good night out is very ____ yours.
A. different from B. different as C. different with
4. The two machines ____ considerably; one has an electric motor, the other runs on oil.
A. differ B. differentiate C. differential
5. When he travelled down the east coast of the USA, he became aware of the ____ in weather between the north and south of the country.
A. comparison B. contrast C. compare
6. Children must be taught to ____ between right and wrong.
A. differ B. contrast C. distinguish
7. Can you tell the ____ between an apple and a pear with your eyes shut?
A. difference B. differentiate C. contrast
8. When companies employ people, they must not ____ between people of different sex or race.
A. differ B. contrast C. discriminate
9. My sister works extremely hard. ____, my brother is rather lazy.
A. By way of contrast B. By ways of comparing C. By similar means
10. My two brothers are almost identical. They are very difficult to ____.
A. tell apart B. say apart C. speak apart
11. They have two things ____; they are both Welsh, and they are both left-handed.
A. in similar B. in particular C. in common
12. He's not lazy. ____, he works very hard.
A. By way of contrast B. On the other hand C. On the contrary
13. He's very rich and lives in a big house. ____, he doesn't seem very happy.
A. On the other hand B. On the contrary C. On the opposite
14. British and Australian people share the same language, but in other respects they are as different as ____.
A. cats and dogs B. chalk and cheese C. salt and pepper
15. We share the same language, but in other respects we are ____ from each other.
A. worlds apart B. miles away C. a lifetime away

Expressions with *get*

Task 1. DEFINITIONS

Look at the expressions in box A and choose a suitable definition for that expression in box B.

A.

1. I think Ben got out of bed on the wrong side this morning.
2. We're planning a little get-together of people from the office.
3. The manager began the meeting with a few comments and then got down to brass tacks.
4. Jan and Richard get on like a house on fire.
5. Rory and Jeannie are getting married? Get away with you!
6. You'll get the sack if you talk to the boss like that.
7. That humming noise is really getting on my nerves.
8. He's got a nerve to ask for a day off.
9. I rang the shops to try and find a new dishwasher, but got nowhere.
10. When she asked him for money, he told her to get lost.
11. OK everyone, we're a bit late so let's get going.
12. Got it!
13. Do you think he got my meaning?
14. Get a grip on yourself - you've got an interview in half an hour.
15. The president is having to get to grips with the failing economy.
16. If they don't get their act together, they'll miss the last date for entries to the competition.
17. How can I get him off my back?
18. If I don't get a rise soon, I'll start looking for another job.
19. I've got out of the habit of eating chocolates.
20. Rainy weather always gets me down.

B.

- A. to be unsuccessful
- B. a meeting of friends
- C. to stop pestering someone
- D. to understand
- E. to be dismissed from a job
- F. not to do something any more
- G. to start to deal with something
- H. Go away. Leave me alone.
- I. over-confidence or rudeness
- J. to start
- K. to receive an increase in salary
- L. to try to control yourself; to try to be less emotional
- M. to start discussing the real problem
- N. Don't try to make me believe that.

Expressions with *get*

- O. to start the day badly
- P. to make someone sad
- Q. to organise yourself properly
- R. to annoy someone
- S. to be very friendly with each other

Task 2. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Complete these sentences with an expression from the previous section. You may need to change the verb form and the pronoun (e.g., he, she) in some of the sentences.

1. We're best friends. We _____.
2. I don't have much money. I hope I _____ soon.
3. 12 across. 10 letters beginning with a 'd'. A book which lists words. Aha! _____! A dictionary, of course!
4. Our boss is in a terrible mood. I think he must have _____.
5. I feel really unhappy in my job. It's really _____.
6. _____! I don't believe you've won the lottery!
7. I'm studying Japanese and I'm just beginning to _____ the grammar.
8. I'm having a little _____ at my place tonight. Would you like to join us?
9. You want me to lend you my car after you crashed it the last time I lent it to you? You've _____!
10. I was so angry with him I told him to _____.
11. We should _____ and talk about the real problems that are affecting the company.
12. Stop being so emotional. _____.
13. I told my boss I thought he was incompetent. A few days later, I _____. I still haven't found another job.
14. You really should _____ of smoking so much - it's very bad for you.
15. He told me that my music really _____.
16. We're _____ with this problem. Let's take a break and come back to it later on.
17. She's always following me around and telling me what to do. I wish she would _____.
18. The boss told me to _____ or I would lose my job.
29. I'm not sure they understood me. I hope they _____.
20. If we don't _____ soon, we'll miss the train.

You will find more expressions using 'get' in the phrasal verbs section on page 27.

Human actions

Task 1. GENERAL ACTIONS

Complete each of the sentences below with the most suitable word from the box. In some cases, more than one answer is possible.

fainted • shivered • fidgeted • sweated • trembled • nodded
 dived • started • squatted • crouched • dozed
 stretched • leaned / leant • dragged • blushed

1. He woke up, stood up and _____ his arms and legs.
2. The suitcase was too heavy to pick up, so she _____ it across the platform.
3. We _____ down to get through the low hole in the wall.
4. She _____ on the floor, trying to get the stains out of the carpet.
5. He _____ in and swam across the pool under water.
6. He _____ out of the car window and was almost hit by another car coming in the opposite direction.
7. She _____ in fear when she saw the lion come towards her.
8. She _____ with cold in the bitter wind.
9. The tennis players _____ in the hot sun.
10. She _____ with embarrassment when he spoke to her.
11. She _____ in surprise when she heard the loud bang.
12. She _____ when she saw the blood, and remained unconscious for about ten minutes.
13. She _____ off for a while after lunch and was suddenly woken up by the telephone ringing.
14. When he asked her if she understood the question, she _____ yes.
15. After an hour, he couldn't sit still any longer and _____ in his seat.



Human actions

Task 2. WAYS OF MOVING

Match the verbs on the left with the person who might behave in that way on the right.

Verbs	Person
hop	A. A man who has been injured in an accident but is still able to walk to the hospital.
dash	B. People walking in the park on a warm summer evening.
crawl	C. A girl jumping across a wide stream of water.
creep	D. Soldiers on parade.
tiptoe	E. Someone who has hurt their foot and must move around on one leg.
leap	F. A young man running home to watch the football on television.
dawdle	G. Young children running, hopping and jumping along the road.
stagger	H. A very young baby who can't walk yet.
skip	I. A teenage daughter arriving home late and walking quietly up the stairs.
march	J. A boy walking quietly past a sleeping dog.
stroll	K. A child walking very slowly to school.

Task 3. HAND AND ARM ACTIONS

Choose the correct verb in each of the following sentences.

1. He **punched** / **snapped** / **grabbed** me on the nose.
2. They all **punched** / **slapped** / **shook** him on the back to congratulate him.
3. The nurse **pointed** / **beckoned to** / **saluted** her to come into the room.
4. She **rubbed** / **wiped** / **stroked** the cat as it sat in her lap.
5. He **patted** / **wiped** / **folded** his pocket to make sure his wallet was still there.
6. He **snapped** / **grabbed** / **flexed** his suitcase and ran to the train.
7. It was dark in the cellar and he had to **grope** / **scratch** / **grab** for a light switch.
8. Ordinary soldiers must **salute** / **shake** / **point** their officers.

Human actions

9. They **waved** / **punched** / **beckoned** goodbye as the boat left the harbour.
10. He **groped** / **scratched** / **stroked** his head as he wondered what to do
11. He sat down and **tapped** / **crossed** / **folded** his arms.
12. Here's a handkerchief - **wipe** / **pat** / **rub** your nose.
13. You should always **pat** / **grope** / **shake** the bottle before you open it.
14. A policeman **tapped** / **scratched** / **stroked** him on the shoulder and arrested him.
15. He **shook** / **rubbed** / **wiped** his hands together to get them warm.

Task 4. IDIOMS, COLLOQUIALISMS AND OTHER EXPRESSIONS

Look at the expressions in **bold** in the following sentences and decide if the definitions which accompany them are **TRUE** or **FALSE**.

1. She **made a beeline** for the chocolate cakes.
She walked slowly towards the chocolate cakes.
2. **Once bitten, twice shy.**
Once you have had a bad experience, you will not want to do it again.
3. The telephone's **on the blink.**
The telephone is ringing.
4. We all gave Brian a **pat on the back.**
We all congratulated Brian.
5. She **looked daggers** at me.
She looked at me angrily.
6. He **ran like the wind.**
He ran very fast.
7. We **salute** the firemen who entered the burning building to save lives.
We are angry with the firemen.
8. **Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.**
Don't be unkind to people who are less fortunate than you.
9. In the coffee break I went into the garden to **stretch my legs.**
After sitting down for a long time, I went for a small walk.
10. Bob is not **fully stretched.**
Bob is not very tall.
11. There was a **mad dash** to buy the tickets.
Nobody wanted to buy the tickets.
12. Don't worry - I was only **pulling your leg.**
I was only teasing you.

Make or do?

Task 1. WORDS USED WITH MAKE OR DO

Look at the sentences below and decide whether they should be completed with the verb *make* or the verb *do*. The form of these verbs will need to change in most sentences. Use the words in bold to help you.

1. Has your mother _____ a **will** yet?
2. She _____ her piano **exercises** every morning.
3. The storm _____ a lot of **damage** last night.
4. Who will be _____ the **speech** at her wedding?
5. We _____ a large **profit** when we sold our house.
6. There's a lot of **work** still to be _____ .
7. At the moment he's _____ great **efforts** to learn Spanish.
8. They _____ a lot of **business** with European countries.
9. I'm not _____ the **washing** today.
10. When we got to the hotel, the **beds** hadn't been _____ .
11. The workmen are _____ so much noise we can't use the telephone.
12. We are _____ good **progress** towards finishing the house.
13. He didn't mean to _____ any **harm**.
14. His wife usually _____ all the **housework**.
15. The milk boiled over and _____ a **mess** on the stove.
16. I can't _____ today's **crossword** - it's too hard.
17. Are you going to _____ a Christmas **cake** again this year?
18. How much **money** did you _____ last year?
19. It took us hours to _____ the **washing up** after the party.
20. He _____ an **inquiry** about trains to Edinburgh.
21. I need to _____ a quick **phone call** before we leave.
22. Don't _____ such a **fuss** - it's only a little scratch.
23. She _____ a **mistake** in typing the address.
24. We _____ **friends** with some French people on holiday.
25. Our company is small but it's _____ **well**.
26. She _____ a few **notes** before her speech.
27. She was _____ the **ironing** when I came home.
28. Companies often _____ a **loss** in their first year of operations.

Make or do?

Task 2. IDIOMS AND COLLOQUIALISMS USING MAKE

Replace the words and expressions in bold with an expression using *make* from the box.

make the best of • make a break with • made a meal of • make do with
 make time • made off with • make-believe • make up my mind

1. The burglar **stole** all their silver.
2. She forgot her pyjamas and had to **use** a T-shirt **because there was nothing else available**.
3. They say it will rain this afternoon so we'd better **take advantage of** the sunshine while it's here.
4. I can't **decide** whether to take the afternoon off to do some shopping or stay in the office and work.
5. She **spent a lot of unnecessary time and went to a lot of effort** repainting the kitchen.
6. His stories about his love affairs are just **not true, although he pretends they are**.
7. We must **arrange** to visit the new sports club **even though we are short of time**.
8. I've tried to forget my last girlfriend, but it's not always easy to **move away from** the past.



Task 3. IDIOMS AND COLLOQUIALISMS USING DO

The words in bold are all in the wrong sentences. Decide which sentences they should go in.

1. If the computer doesn't work, hit it - that should do the **sights** and get it working again.
2. Will you do the **turn**, John, and pour us all a drink?
3. He never uses violence himself. He just gets other people to do the **yourself** work for him.
4. He looks a bit unhappy. An evening out would do **don'ts** to cheer him up.
5. She's very good at painting, decorating and other do-it-**trick** jobs.
6. You don't have a car? How can you do **turn** one? You must have a good public transport system in our area.
7. This chicken is cooked perfectly. It's done to a **dirty**.
8. She told him all the do's and **without** about working in the office, and helped him to settle in.
9. He did me a good **honours** by writing a job reference for me, so I helped him in return.
10. When we went to Barcelona, we did all the **wonders** and took hundreds of photographs.

You will find more expressions using make and do in the phrasal verbs section on pages 27 and 29.