



# Using affixes to create a new word family

## Commuting

UNIT AIMS

**Skill:** using affixes to create a new word family

**Vocabulary:** travel topic vocabulary

**Exam practice:** *Advanced Paper 1 Part 3*

### Improve your Use of English skills: using affixes to create a new word family

**What is using affixes to create a new word family?**

One function of affixes is to create words within a word family (Unit 7). The other main function is to change or modify the meaning of the root word. For example, the meaning of action can be modified by adding the prefix re- to form a new word family: react, reaction, reactive, etc. Similarly, the meaning of hand can be modified by adding the suffix -le to form handle, which has a different meaning.

- 1 The example with *action* suggests that this kind of transformation
- A always involves changing the part of speech.
  - B never involves changing the part of speech.
  - C might involve changing the part of speech.

**Why is using affixes to create a new word family important?**

It's important because it greatly increases the number of words you know and can use, and allows you to express related but different concepts. By using the right affixes, you can take a root word and create whole new word families with a wide range of meanings. For example, by using affixes you can transform the root word act into react, interact, overact, counteract, etc, together with all their derivatives.

- 2 Which of these is **not** an example of creating a new word family?
- A take to partake
  - B see to oversight
  - C re-enact to re-enactment

**How do you use affixes to create a new word family?**

Most affixes which create new word families are prefixes (e.g. act to counteract). However, suffixes can also sometimes be used to change or modify meaning (e.g. diction to dictionary, clock to clockwise). You need to know the general meanings of all affixes used to create new word families (e.g. counter- means against, etc) as well as exceptions to the general meanings (e.g. infamous does not mean not famous).

- 3 Which of these would be described as an exception according to the paragraph?
- A underperform
  - B understand
  - C underpin

**How is using affixes to create a new word family important in *Advanced*?**

In Part 3 you are given a root word and need to form a derivative to fill a gap. Many questions in this part involve creating a derivative that is a different part of speech within a word family, and questions sometimes involve using affixes to fundamentally change or modify the meaning of a word. As well as affixes, you may also have to form compound words like handle to manhandle (not usually considered to be affixes).

- 4 Which of these root words does **not** have a derivative in the above paragraph?
- A mental
  - B mode
  - C speak



## Get started

Look at the photo and answer the questions.

- How do you travel to your place of work or study? How do you feel about the journey?
- What is the furthest distance or the longest time you would consider travelling from home to work every day?

## Develop your vocabulary

1 Match words from each column to make phrases.

- |           |   |   |             |
|-----------|---|---|-------------|
| 1 travel  | — | a | rage        |
| 2 short   | — | b | space       |
| 3 road    | — | c | pass        |
| 4 rush    | — | d | cut         |
| 5 at a    | — | e | carriageway |
| 6 cycle   | — | f | standstill  |
| 7 parking | — | g | lane        |
| 8 dual    | — | h | hour        |

2 Write a word from the box in each gap to complete the text.

bypasses ■ congestion ■ infrastructure ■ junctions ■ links ■ queues ■ ring

## Commuting

When we think of commuters, we often imagine people walking to the station in a leafy suburb and taking the train into the city. That was how commuting began, and the train is certainly still a good way of avoiding (1) \_\_\_\_\_ on our roads. However, many people commute long distances by car each day, and it is not uncommon for drivers to have to sit in (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of traffic for hours. The (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of a country determines how pleasant or otherwise your daily commute is going to be. (4) \_\_\_\_\_ roads or (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (avoiding the towns that we used to have to drive through) all help, as do good rail (6) \_\_\_\_\_, but roadworks, accidents, traffic lights and busy (7) \_\_\_\_\_ can all cause delays and add to the journey time.



## Develop your Use of English skills: using affixes to create a new word family

1 Read the sentences and guess the meanings of the prefixes in bold.

1 \_\_\_\_\_

According to the weather **forecast**, travelling conditions will be hazardous in the early hours tomorrow.

The horse-drawn cab was the **forerunner** of the taxis that are so familiar today.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

Most large cities in the rush hour are **synonymous** with congestion.

The trains in both directions are carefully **synchronised** so that they don't arrive at the station at the same time.

3 \_\_\_\_\_

The station terminal was a large round building, over 200 metres in **circumference**.

The transport authority was found to have **circumvented** the safety rules, putting passengers' lives in danger.

4 \_\_\_\_\_

The letter had a **postscript** telling me there was a voucher attached that I could use on any train in the next three months.

The match was **postponed** because of the rail strikes.

2 Look again at the roots of the words in exercise 1 and try to guess the meanings of the parts in bold below.

1 **forecast** \_\_\_\_\_

4 **synchronised** \_\_\_\_\_

2 **forerunner** \_\_\_\_\_

5 **circumference** \_\_\_\_\_

3 **synonymous** \_\_\_\_\_

6 **postscript** \_\_\_\_\_

3 Match the prefixes with their meanings.

1 pre-    \_\_\_    a between or among

2 fore-    \_\_\_    b against

3 counter-    \_\_\_    c first

4 trans-    \_\_\_    d across or change

5 inter-    \_\_\_    e before or ahead of time

4 Write a form of the word in brackets together with a prefix from exercise 3 in each gap to complete the text.

Commuting is defined as travelling back and forth regularly. However, it is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (**dominate**) linked to travelling for work. A hundred years ago, no one could have (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (**tell**) how many commuters there would be today. Yet sometimes it seems that the advances we have made in transport networks and motor vehicles have been (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (**produce**), since all we do is sit in traffic jams. This is a shame, because governments and construction companies do great work, only to find that the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (**form**) they had hoped for has not happened. One reason is that the different means of transport are (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (**depend**), which means that a new system relies on other systems working alongside it. It's no use, for example, having a great urban rail system if all the roads leading to the stations are at a standstill.

5 Choose what each group of words has in common. Write a form of one of the words in each gap to complete the sentences.

1 **audience, audible, auditorium, audiovisual, audition**

They are related to

- a hearing.
- b speaking.
- c thinking.

We didn't hear the last call for our train – those station announcements are completely \_\_\_\_\_, aren't they?

2 **automobile, automatic, autograph, autonomous, autoimmune**

They refer to

- a speed.
- b something done by itself.
- c something modern.

Stand clear of the doors. They open \_\_\_\_\_.

3 **benefit, benefactor, beneficial, benevolent, beneficiary**

They refer to something

- a good.
- b bad.
- c dangerous.

The main \_\_\_\_\_ of the new light railway will be workers who live in the western suburbs.

4 **proceed, precede, recede, exceed, succeed**

They are related to

- a winning.
- b stopping.
- c going or moving.

The driver was fined €100 for \_\_\_\_\_ the speed limit.

5 **predict, verdict, dictionary, dictate, diction**

They are related to

- a studying.
- b writing.
- c speaking.

Snow is \_\_\_\_\_ overnight, so drivers should expect delays in the morning rush hour.

6 Write a form of the word in capitals in each gap.

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| 1 We gathered in the large _____ to hear the plans for the new rail link.                     | <b>AUDIENCE</b> |
| 2 The roads were closed to allow the _____ through the town.                                  | <b>PROCEED</b>  |
| 3 The traffic made me late for work three days in _____.                                      | <b>SUCCEED</b>  |
| 4 There was little in the way of infrastructure when the _____ was in power.                  | <b>DICTATE</b>  |
| 5 As the bus driver was _____, he drove into a parked car.                                    | <b>REVERT</b>   |
| 6 The damage to the bridge in the earthquake could not have been _____.                       | <b>SEE</b>      |
| 7 I remember _____ my first commute into the city after I passed my driving test.             | <b>DREAD</b>    |
| 8 I'm so sorry I didn't pick you up this morning. It was a terrible _____ on my part.         | <b>SEE</b>      |
| 9 I was driving to work in my _____, which was fine until it started raining on the motorway. | <b>CONVERT</b>  |

**7** Match each group of words with its group meaning.

- |  |     |                |
|--|-----|----------------|
| 1 credible, incredible, incredulous, credit, credential, credulity           | ___ | a bend         |
| 2 attract, tractor, traction, extract, retract, subtract, protract, contract | ___ | b close        |
| 3 include, exclude, claustrophobia, enclose, exclusive, reclusive, recluse   | ___ | c believe      |
| 4 evolve, revolve, devolve, evolution, evolutionary, evolutionist            | ___ | d write        |
| 5 flexible, reflection, deflect, flex, reflex, inflexibility, reflective     | ___ | e pull or take |
| 6 graphic, polygraph, biography, graphite, autograph                         | ___ | f turn or roll |

**8** Explain the meaning of each word in bold. Use exercise 7 to help you.

- Some people say that the new train line will **detract** from the natural beauty of the area.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- With its pedestrian-only areas, the city centre has **evolved** into a model for others to copy.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The right-hand lane of the city roads is **exclusively** for buses.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The government lost a lot of **credibility** when the new road system was delayed by a year.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- In the early days of the railway, people used to send messages by **telegraph** from one station to another.  
\_\_\_\_\_



**9** Write the correct word in each gap.

- withheld / upheld**
  - The development committee \_\_\_\_\_ vital information from the public.
  - If the traffic police \_\_\_\_\_ the law, there would be fewer accidents.
- likewise / clockwise**
  - Most people are using the underground today and we suggest you do \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Go around the ring road in a \_\_\_\_\_ direction until you see a sign for Paignton.
- painful / painstaking**
  - He gave me the directions in such \_\_\_\_\_ detail that I couldn't follow them.
  - Falling off my bike was an extremely \_\_\_\_\_ experience.
- bystanders / bypasses**
  - It wasn't the accident that slowed down the traffic but the number of \_\_\_\_\_ on the road.
  - The construction of two new \_\_\_\_\_ will mean that lorries will not need to go through the town centre.
- caution / precaution**
  - I always carry a petrol can as a \_\_\_\_\_, just in case I run out.
  - Due to high winds, drivers are urged to exercise \_\_\_\_\_ in exposed areas.

10 Complete the table with words from the box and the prefixes given. You will use some words more than once.

all ■ bound ■ cast ■ come ■ priced ■ put ■ seas ■ set ■ sight ■ spoken ■ staffed ■ sure ■ ward

over-	in-	out-
overall	inbound	outbound

11 Complete the table. Include all possible derivatives you can think of.

<b>act</b>	react, reacting, reacted, reaction interact, interacting, interacted, interaction, interactive
<b>active</b>	activate deactivate
<b>hand</b>	handle mishandle
<b>mode</b>	modify
<b>part</b>	participate
<b>place</b>	displace replace
<b>pose</b>	impose

12 Write the correct form of the word in brackets in each gap to complete the text.

## ➤ SOME CONSIDERATIONS FOR COMMUTERS

About 3% of American workers travel for more than 90 minutes to get to work each day in order to hold down a job with a decent (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (come). It has been calculated that Los Angeles commuters spend an average of 59 hours a year in traffic jams.

However, Los Angeles is only the third worst city in the world for traffic. Perhaps surprisingly, the greatest (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (pose) on your time can be found in the Belgian capital, Brussels, where the average driver spends 37% of his or her time stuck in traffic. In second place is Antwerp – also in Belgium.

Some of the more (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) opponents of the car, rather than simply handing in their (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (resign), have taken to commuting on two wheels, such as a bicycle. Of course, you need to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (value) the disadvantages, such as bad weather and an increased risk of accidents. Nevertheless, if you can (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (hand) these, the benefits are enormous.

For a start, you get plenty of exercise and avoid the expenses of car maintenance, insurance and (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (price) petrol. Many cyclists also take great pleasure from being able to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (take) cars as they sit stuck in traffic.

**Exam focus:****using affixes to create a new word family in *Advanced***

- 1 Look at the exam practice section on page 93. Decide which part of speech is required in each gap.

Gap 1: \_\_\_\_\_      Gap 5: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gap 2: \_\_\_\_\_      Gap 6: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gap 3: \_\_\_\_\_      Gap 7: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gap 4: \_\_\_\_\_      Gap 8: \_\_\_\_\_

**Skills tip**

In *Advanced* Paper 1 Part 3, do you

a always form the new word with common prefixes or suffixes?

Yes / No

b sometimes have to change the meaning of the word given?

Yes / No

- 2 Look at the exam practice section on page 93 again. In the example (Gap 0), you have to make two changes to the given word (*initial* → *initiative* → *initiatives*). How many changes do you think you need to make to the other words? \_\_\_\_\_

- 3 Look at the extracts from other parts of *Advanced* Paper 1 and answer the questions.

**Part 1**

The local council (0) \_\_\_\_\_ the proposal to create a one-way system through the central square, claiming that it would be ineffective.

A injected

B interjected

C rejected

D projected

- 1 Which of the options, A, B, C, and D, has a negative meaning? \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 What ideas are conveyed by the prefixes *in-*, *inter-*, and *pro-*? \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2**

The new bypass goes (0) \_\_\_\_\_ the town so you don't get caught up in local traffic.

- 3 What part of speech is missing from the gap? \_\_\_\_\_  
 4 Look at the formation of *bypass*. Where does this road probably go in relation to the town?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 4**

We began to worry that the train wasn't coming because it was so late.

**OVERDUE**

Since the train \_\_\_\_\_ were worried that it wasn't coming.

- 5 What part of speech is *overdue*? Which verb will you use with it? \_\_\_\_\_  
 6 Since *due* means *expected*, which word in the first sentence corresponds to *overdue*?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 7 What else is missing from the sentence? \_\_\_\_\_

*Exam practice:***Advanced Paper 1 Part 3**

For questions 1–8, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line.

Write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS**.

*Example:*

0 I N I T I A T I V E S

## TRANSPORT CHANGES in Nairobi

Green transport (0) \_\_\_\_\_ are not something you only find in the western world. The government in Kenya has recently constructed around 100 kilometres of new (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in the capital, Nairobi, and has considerably supplied half of that length with cycle lanes. The roads, bridges and flyovers will greatly reduce the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ in the city, and make it easier for people to commute to work by bicycle and thus help to cut down on carbon (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Around seven million people a day use Nairobi's roads, as commuters from (4) \_\_\_\_\_ towns enter the city. There has been a positive (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to the new lanes from Nairobi's 150,000 cyclists, who say they save a great deal of time. In addition, the reduced tax on new bicycles makes them more (6) \_\_\_\_\_, and is encouraging even more people to commute on two wheels. Three major (7) \_\_\_\_\_ have also been built to help keep the centre and the suburbs clear of traffic. While officials are (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the success of the new roads in the capital, plans are going ahead to build bike lanes in other urban areas.

**INITIAL**

**WAY**

**CONGEST**

**EMIT**

**SURROUND**

**ACT**

**AFFORD**

**PASS**

**VALUE**

### Skills tip

The majority of the words you are asked to create in *Advanced Paper 1 Part 3* involve making the simple changes that you studied in Unit 7. These words usually need one or two changes (e.g. *consider* → *considerate* → *inconsiderate*), and are usually close in meaning to the root word but a different part of speech. However, you can expect to find that more complex changes are needed in some of the items. These could change the meaning of the root word given (e.g. *act* → *react* → *reaction*) or they could be based on compounding (e.g. *sun* → *sunglasses*).