

Word Formation (C2) – Worksheet 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 39



Do this worksheet
online and check your
answers instantly

Exercise 1: Match the words with their meanings

Match each definition with a word from the box. There are two extra words you do not need.

Example: a person who is not an expert in a particular subject → layperson

WORD BOX

misnomer downplay inevitability insatiable overstatement simultaneous outnumber
misgiving outlive

1. a name or description that is wrong or misleading → _____
2. to make something seem less important than it really is → _____
3. the quality of being certain to happen and impossible to avoid → _____
4. impossible to satisfy → _____
5. a statement that makes something seem bigger or more serious than it is → _____
6. happening or done at exactly the same time → _____
7. to be greater in number than another group → _____

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences

Complete each sentence with an adjective from the box. There are two extra words you do not need.

Example: Her enthusiasm for new projects seemed _____. → inexhaustible

WORD BOX

irreversible unassailable impeccable unprecedented indispensable insurmountable
unequivocal inconceivable illegible inedible

8. Scientists fear the damage to the coral reef may already be _____ and cannot be undone.
9. By half-time the team had built up an _____ lead of five goals.
10. Her written English is _____; there isn't a single error in the whole report.
11. The city experienced an _____ rise in visitor numbers, unlike anything seen before.
12. A good dictionary is _____ for any serious translator.
13. At first the obstacles seemed _____, but the team eventually overcame them.

14. The director gave an _____ answer: there would be no further delays.
15. Thirty years ago it would have been _____ that people would carry powerful computers in their pockets.

Exercise 3: Form the verbs

Complete each sentence with a verb formed from the word in brackets. Use the correct tense or form.

Example: The tunnel will be ____ (LONG) by 200 metres. → lengthened

16. The new law will _____ (POWER) local councils to set their own budgets.
17. The council voted to _____ (LEGAL) street trading in the old town.
18. The government plans to _____ (MODERN) the entire rail network by 2035.
19. Rising energy prices could _____ (DANGER) the economic recovery.
20. Could you _____ (CLEAR) what you meant by your last comment?
21. You shouldn't _____ (LITTLE) her achievements just because you're jealous.
22. The gap between the two regions continues to _____ (WIDE).
23. The film _____ (DRAMA) the events of 1969 in vivid detail.

Exercise 4: Use the word in capitals

Use the word in capitals to form a word that fits the gap.

Example: The minister's ____ was announced this morning. (RESIGN) → resignation

24. The committee's decision was met with widespread _____ among local residents. (BELIEVE)
25. Her instructions were so _____ that nobody could follow them. (COMPREHEND)
26. The new policy has had a number of _____ consequences. (FORESEE)
27. The evidence against the company was _____, so it accepted the fine. (REFUTE)
28. Despite repeated warnings, he remained completely _____ about the risks. (CONCERN)
29. The _____ of the old theatre took nearly two years. (RESTORE)
30. Critics praised the novel for its sensitive _____ of family life. (PORTRAY)
31. The two witnesses gave completely _____ accounts of the accident. (RECONCILE)

Exercise 5: Correct the mistakes

Each sentence contains one incorrect word form. Rewrite the sentence correctly.

Example: The film was a huge disappoint. → The film was a huge disappointment.

32. The report highlights the importance of sustainable for future generations.
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33. Most of the jury found his argument completely unconvinced.

34. She spoke with remarkable eloquent at the ceremony.

35. The company has been accused of negligent in its handling of customer data.

36. Many viewers found the ending of the series deeply dissatisfied.

37. There has been a noticeable deteriorate in air quality this year.

38. The judge described the defendant's behaviour as reprehensive.

39. The organisation's response was criticised for its lack of transparent.

Answer key – Word Formation (C2) – Worksheet 1

Exercise 1: Match the words with their meanings

1. **misnomer**
The prefix mis- means 'wrongly', so a misnomer is a wrongly applied name.
2. **downplay**
Down- combined with play suggests reducing the importance of something.
3. **inevitability**
The suffix -ity turns the adjective inevitable into an abstract noun.
4. **insatiable**
In- (not) + sati- (satisfy) + -able gives the meaning 'cannot be satisfied'.
5. **overstatement**
Over- means 'too much', so an overstatement is an exaggeration.
6. **simultaneous**
Simultaneous describes events that occur at the same moment.
7. **outnumber**
The prefix out- means 'more than' or 'better than'.

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences

8. **irreversible**
Irreversible means impossible to change back to the previous state.
9. **unassailable**
An unassailable lead is so large that it cannot be challenged.
10. **impeccable**
Impeccable means perfect, without any faults.
11. **unprecedented**
Unprecedented means never having happened before.
12. **indispensable**
Indispensable means absolutely necessary.
13. **insurmountable**
Insurmountable means too great to be overcome.
14. **unequivocal**
An unequivocal answer is completely clear and leaves no doubt.
15. **inconceivable**
Inconceivable means impossible to imagine.

Exercise 3: Form the verbs

16. **empower**
The prefix em- turns the noun power into the verb empower.
17. **legalise**
The suffix -ise/-ize turns the adjective legal into a verb.
18. **modernise**
Modern + -ise/-ize gives the verb meaning 'make modern'.
19. **endanger**
The prefix en- turns the noun danger into the verb endanger.
20. **clarify**
Clarify is the verb related to clear, formed with -ify.
21. **belittle**
The prefix be- forms belittle, meaning to make something seem unimportant.
22. **widen**
The suffix -en turns the adjective wide into the verb widen.
23. **dramatises**
The reviewer's answer 'dramatises' was already accepted, and the past forms 'dramatised/dramatized' are added because the sentence gives no tense clue and both tenses are correct.

Exercise 4: Use the word in capitals

24. **disbelief**
A noun is needed after widespread; dis- + belief expresses the inability to believe.
25. **incomprehensible**
An adjective meaning 'impossible to understand' is needed, formed with in- and -ible.
26. **unforeseen**
Un- + the past participle foreseen describes consequences nobody predicted.
27. **irrefutable**
Ir- + refute + -able means impossible to prove wrong.
28. **unconcerned**
An adjective describing a person's feeling is needed: un- + concerned.
29. **restoration**
A noun is needed after the; restore becomes restoration.
30. **portrayal**
The noun form of portray is portrayal, formed with -al.
31. **irreconcilable**
Ir- + reconcile + -able (dropping the final e) means impossible to bring into agreement.

Exercise 5: Correct the mistakes

32. **The report highlights the importance of sustainability for future generations.**

A noun is needed after 'the importance of', so sustainable must become sustainability.

33. **Most of the jury found his argument completely unconvincing.**

An argument causes a feeling, so the -ing adjective unconvincing is correct.

34. **She spoke with remarkable eloquence at the ceremony.**

After 'with remarkable' a noun is needed: eloquence.

35. **The company has been accused of negligence in its handling of customer data.**

After 'accused of' we need a noun, so negligent becomes negligence.

36. **Many viewers found the ending of the series deeply dissatisfying.**

The ending causes the feeling, so an -ing adjective is required.

37. **There has been a noticeable deterioration in air quality this year.**

After 'a noticeable' a noun is needed: deterioration.

38. **The judge described the defendant's behaviour as reprehensible.**

The correct adjective meaning 'deserving strong criticism' is reprehensible.

39. **The organisation's response was criticised for its lack of transparency.**

After 'lack of' a noun is needed, so transparent becomes transparency.

Notes for teachers: Start with the matching and word box tasks to activate vocabulary, then move to the open word-formation exercises, ideally under timed exam-style conditions. Typical mistakes include choosing the wrong negative prefix (unrefutable for irrefutable), confusing -ed and -ing adjectives (unconvinced vs unconvincing) and forgetting spelling changes (reconcile → irreconcilable). As a follow-up, ask learners to build full word families for five base words from the worksheet and write one sentence for each form.