The names of English words

A good student works hard at his books and he enjoys learning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A: article</th>
<th>student: noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>works: verb</td>
<td>good: adjective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hard: adverb</td>
<td>at: preposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and: conjunction</td>
<td>he: pronoun</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Nouns:**

An artist loves beauty

- **artist** => plural form: artists (countable)
- **beauty** => plural form: x (uncountable)

artist => subject => Describes who does the verb
beauty => object => What is affected by the verb

**Construction of words**

Irregularity
ir-regular-ity

**Suffixes**

A) **Noun suffixes**

1. -er: used for the person who does an activity: writer, worker, teacher etc.
   -or instead of -er: actor, sailor, supervisor.
   Also used for things which do a particular job: pencil-sharpener, bottle-opener, projector, stapler.
2. -er and -ee can contrast each other meaning:
   -er: person who does the activity
   -ee: person who receives or experiences the action
   E.g. employer/employee, sender/addresssee, payer/payee.

3. -(t)ion: used to make nouns from verbs
   Examples: reduction, pollution, alteration, complication, admission.
4. -ist (person) and -ism (activity or ideology)
   used for people’s beliefs and ideologies and sometimes their profession.
   E.g. Marxism, Buddhism, journalism, physicist, terrorist etc.
   -ist is also used for people who play musical instruments: pianist, violinist, cellist.
5. -ness: used to make nouns from adjectives
goodness, weakness, sadness, happiness, readiness, forgetfulness.
6. Other noun suffixes include:
   -ment (replacement), -ity (flexibility), -ship (friendship).

B) **Verb suffixes**

- -ise (or -ize) are used to make verbs from adjectives: modernise, industrialise, commercialise.
- -ify: beautify, purify, terrify.

C) **Adjective suffixes**

1. -able/-ible are used to make adjectives from verbs and mean “can be done”.
   -able: drinkable, washable, recognisable, countable, readable.
   -ible: edible, flexible.
2. Other adjective suffixes include:
   -ive: active, productive.
   -al: legal, brutal (Nouns: arrival, refusal)
   -ous: delicious, furious, famous.
   -ful: helpful, useful, hopeful, forgetful.

**Exercise 1:**

1. Most of his crimes can be forgiven.
   Most of his crimes are forgivable.
2. The Club refuses to admit anyone not wearing a tie.
   The Club refuses admission to anyone not wearing a tie.
3. Her only fault is that she is lazy.
   Her only fault is her laziness.
4. This firm has produced a lot in recent years.
   This firm has been very productive in recent years.
5. I found the book very easy and pleasant to read.
   I found the book very readable.
Prefixes

Prefixes are often used to give adjectives a negative meaning:

- Comfortable ≠ uncomfortable, just ≠ unjust
- Convenient ≠ inconvenient, edible ≠ inedible
- Similar ≠ dissimilar, loyal ≠ disloyal

No rule!
New adjective => note opposite!

‘in’

- ‘in’ becomes ‘im’ before a root beginning with ‘m’ or ‘p’: immature, impatient, impartial, improbable etc.
- ‘in’ becomes ‘ir’ before a word beginning with ‘r’: irreplaceable, irreversible etc.
- ‘in’ becomes ‘il’ before a word beginning with ‘l’: illegal, illiterate etc.
- ‘in’ does not always have a negative meaning – often it gives an idea of inside or into e.g. internal, import, insert, income etc.

Verbs with ‘un’ and ‘dis’

- Although it is mainly adjectives which are made negative by prefixes, ‘un’ and ‘dis’ can also form the opposites of verbs too, e.g. appear ≠ disappear.
- The prefix is used here to reverse the action of the verb.

More examples:
Disagree, Disapprove, Disprove, Disbelieve, Disconnect, Discredit, Dislike, Dismount, Disqualify
Unbend, Undo, Undress, Unfold, Unload, Unlock, Unveil, Unwrap, Unzip

Exercise 2: Which negative fits each of the following definitions?
- Unmarried means not having a husband or wife.
- Illiterate means unable to read or write.
- Unemployed means not having a job.

Exercise 3: Answer the following questions.
- What kind of drug can help somebody with an infection?
- What kind of company had branches in many countries?
- What is a student who is studying for a second degree?

Exercise 4: Construct words or phrases to replace the underlined words.
- He’s in favour of the American approach.
- The BBC tries to avoid pronouncing foreign words incorrectly.
- He dated his cheque with a date that was later than the real date?
- He made so many mistakes in the letter that he had to write it again.
### Other prefixes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anti</td>
<td>Against</td>
<td>Anti-war, antisocial, antibiotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto</td>
<td>Of or by oneself</td>
<td>Autograph, autopilot, autobiography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bi</td>
<td>Two, twice</td>
<td>Bicycle, biannual, bilingual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex</td>
<td>Former</td>
<td>Ex-wife, ex-student, ex-president</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ex</td>
<td>Out of</td>
<td>Extract, exhale, excommunicate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Micro</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Microwave, microscopic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mis</td>
<td>Badly or wrongly</td>
<td>Misunderstand, mistranslate, misinform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mono</td>
<td>One, single</td>
<td>Monologue, monogamous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi</td>
<td>Many</td>
<td>Multi-national, multi-purpose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Over</td>
<td>Too much</td>
<td>Overdo, overtired, oversleep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post</td>
<td>After</td>
<td>Postwar, postgraduate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pro</td>
<td>In favour of</td>
<td>Pro-government, pro-revolutionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pseudo</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>Pseudo-scientific, pseudo-intellectual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re</td>
<td>Again or back</td>
<td>Retype, reread, replace, rewind</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semi</td>
<td>Half</td>
<td>Semi-final, semi-detached</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub</td>
<td>Under</td>
<td>Subway, submarine, subdivision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under</td>
<td>Not enough</td>
<td>Underworked, underused, undercooked</td>
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