

Affixes include both prefixes, e.g. *un-*, *dis-*, and suffixes, e.g. *-tion*. Many affixes are grammatical, and do not have much 'meaning', for example the prefix *-un* shows an opposite, and the suffix *-ity* shows that the word is probably a noun. Sometimes a suffix can be taken away to leave the root word, e.g. *intensity* → *intense*, but sometimes this does not work, e.g. *capacity*. Affixes can help you recognize word class, which in turn can help you understand wider meanings and sentence structure.

TASK 1 Using suffixes to recognize word families

1 Match each group of suffixes to their typical word classes.

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1 -tion, -sion, -ity, -ment, -ism, -ness | Nouns: |
| 2 -ly, -ily | Verbs: |
| 3 -ify, -ize, -ate | Adjectives: |
| 4 -al, -ous, -ent, -ive | Adverbs: |

2 Choose one group, and give at least one example word for each suffix.

Example: *-ity: authority, intensity*

3 Write a sentence related to your own area of study using each example word from 2.

TASK 2 Building word families using affixes

1 Decide on the word class for words 1–8. Then write in the remaining forms where possible. The first is done as an example.

	noun	verb	adjective	adverb
1 centre	<i>centre</i>	<i>centralize</i>	<i>central</i>	<i>centrally</i>
2 divide				—
3 discuss				
4 category				
5 theoretical				
6 similar		—		
7 differentiate				
8 collectively				

2 Add the word class to words 1–8. Then complete the second column with the word class given.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1 involve () | (n) |
| 2 similar () | (n) |
| 3 market () | (adj) |
| 4 intense () | (adv) |
| 5 summary () | (v) |
| 6 division () | (adj) |
| 7 equal () | (n) |
| 8 resource () | (adj) |

3 Complete the sentences with the appropriate form of the word given.

- UN in recent elections has helped stabilize the region. (involve)
- Life on other planets is possible, but highly unlikely. (theoretical)
- The between rich and poor has increased with each generation. (divide)
- Researchers noted a in responses from male and female test groups. (similar)
- Attempts to the flora and fauna of rainforests have been limited. (category)

4 Write a short paragraph related to your own area of study using at least three of the words from 2.