WORD FORMATION

You need to read the sentence carefully to decide what kind of word is missing – is it a noun, a verb, an adjective or an adverb? In English we often use prefixes (words that go in front of a word) and suffixes (words that go at the end of a word) to change the type of word it is.

Prefixes

1 The following prefixes all give the meaning of NOT when they come before a word. We often put *il-* before words beginning with *l*, *ir-* before words beginning with *r*, and *im-* before words beginning with *p*. Take care with this rule though, as there are exceptions.

il-	un-	in-
dis-	ir-	im-

Which prefix do we use to make these adjectives negative?

a satisfied
b relevant
c patient
d complete
e legal
f possible
g comfortable
h honest
i popular
j legible
k accessible
l responsible
m pleased
n realistic
o perfect
p regular
q literate

2 What meaning do you think these prefixes give to the word that follows? Can you think of some more examples?

a *mini*-skirt
b *non*-stop
c *re*train
d *sub*way
e *un*tie
f *under*done
g *anti*-freeze
h *ultra*-conservative
i *out*live

Suffixes

3 NOUNS – Typical noun suffixes are:

-ation	-ion	-ness	-ship	-ity
-ism	-ence	-ment	-al	

Make these words into nouns.

a happy
b intelligent
c approve
d repeat
e inform
f popular
g friend
h social
i pay

4 Not all nouns follow the above pattern. Make nouns from these words.

a true
b succeed
c die
d high

5 ADJECTIVES – Typical adjectival suffixes are:

-ible	-able	-y	-al
-ive	-ful	-less	-ous

Make these words into adjectives.

a wind
b attract
c hope
d peace
e eat

6 VERBS – Typical verb suffixes are:

-ve	-ist	-en
-ise	-ize	-ify

Make these words into verbs.

a wide
b behaviour
c sympathy
d clear

In British English you will nearly always be correct if you use *-ise*.

7 ADVERBS – Adverbs are usually formed by adding the suffix *-ly* to the adjective. However, there are some exceptions.

Make these words into adverbs.

a hard
b good
c slow
d peace
e fast
f true