

## Part 3: Word Formation

### Description

In this part of the Use of English you are given a short text with gaps. For each gap there is a word in capital letters. You have to write the correct form of this word to fill the gap. You must write only **one** word. Some gaps may have more than one possible answer.

This part of the exam focuses mainly on vocabulary and tests your knowledge of how words are formed:

#### 1. Prefixes and suffixes

You have to use a prefix. A prefix is a group of letters which you add to the beginning of a word, for example **un-** → '**un**usual'.

You have to use a suffix. A suffix is a group of letters which you add to the end of a word, for example **-able** → '**reliable**'.

#### 2. Spelling changes and irregular forms

You often have to make a spelling change, for example 'intend' → 'intention', and sometimes you have to use an irregular form, for example 'succeed' → '**success**'.

#### 3. Superlatives and ordinal numbers

Occasionally you need a superlative, for example 'great' → '**greatest**', or an ordinal number, for example 'two' → '**second**'.

#### 4. Plurals and negative forms

Sometimes the context requires a plural, for example 'difficulty' → '**difficulties**', or the negative form of the word, for example 'possible' → '**impossible**' or 'care' → '**careless**'.

#### 5. Several changes

Sometimes you have to make more than one change to the word in capitals, for example 'fortunate' → '**unfortunately**'.

## Examples

Below you will find an example for each of the areas described before. First read the example and write the correct form of the word in capital letters to fill the gap. Then read the feedback, which will show you the correct answer and explain why this answer is correct:

1.1 Prefixes	
The Polar Lights are an _____ natural spectacle.	ORDINARY
<b>Feedback:</b> The correct answer is <b>'extraordinary'</b> . The context tells you that the Polar Lights are something unusual. You need to add the prefix <b>extra-</b> to the adjective 'ordinary' to express this meaning: <b>extra + ordinary = extraordinary</b>	

1.2 Suffixes	
Film critics agree that this has been one of his most _____ performances.	REMARK
<b>Feedback:</b> The correct answer is <b>'remarkable'</b> . You need an adjective between 'one of his most' and 'performances'. You need to add the suffix <b>-able</b> to the verb 'remark' to form the adjective: <b>remark + able = remarkable</b>	

2.1 Spelling changes	
Governments are faced with the challenge of finding a _____ to the problem of managing nuclear waste.	SOLVE
<b>Feedback:</b> The correct answer is <b>'solution'</b> . You need a noun after the indefinite article 'a'. You need to add the suffix <b>-tion</b> to the verb 'solve' to form the noun. The <b>'ve'</b> of 'solve' changes to <b>'u'</b> : <b>solu</b> <b>solu + tion = solution</b>	

## 2.1 Spelling changes

The \_\_\_\_\_ of winter always makes me feel depressed.

ARRIVE

### Feedback:

The correct answer is '**arrival**'.

You need a noun after the definite article 'the'. You need to add the suffix **-al** to the verb 'arrive' to form the noun. The final 'e' of 'arrive' is dropped:

*arriv - e*

*arriv + **al** = arrival*

## 2.2 Irregular forms

Windmills are a familiar \_\_\_\_\_ in the Netherlands.

SEE

### Feedback:

The correct answer is '**sight**'.

You need a noun after 'a familiar'. The noun of the verb 'see' is irregular:

*see = **sight***

## 3.1 Superlatives

With 8848m, Mount Everest is the \_\_\_\_\_ mountain in the world.

HIGH

### Feedback:

The correct answer is '**highest**'.

You need a superlative between 'the' and 'mountain in the world'. You need to add the suffix **-est** to the adjective 'high' to form the superlative:

*high + **est** = highest*

### 3.2 Ordinal numbers

The Pacific Ocean covers nearly one \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth's surface. THREE

#### Feedback:

The correct answer is 'third'.

You need an ordinal number between 'nearly one' and 'of the earth's surface'. The ordinal number of 'three' is irregular:

*three = third*

### 4.1 Plurals

The Great Barrier Reef in Australia is a popular holiday destination, which attracts a great number of \_\_\_\_\_ every year. TOUR

#### Feedback:

The correct answer is 'tourists'.

You need the noun for people to say **who** is attracted. The suffix **-ist** is added to the noun 'tour' to form the noun for people:

*tour + ist = tourist*

You need the plural after 'a great number of':

*tourists*

### 4.2 Negative forms

This film contains some scary scenes, which makes it \_\_\_\_\_ for children under the age of twelve. SUITABLE

#### Feedback:

The correct answer is 'unsuitable'.

The context tells you that the film is **not** suitable for children under twelve because it contains some scary scenes. You need to add the prefix **un-** to the adjective 'suitable' to make it negative:

*un + suitable = unsuitable*

## 4.2 Negative forms

Yoga can be done by everyone \_\_\_\_\_ of age or physical condition. REGARD

### Feedback:

The correct answer is '**regardless**'.

The context tells you that everybody can do yoga and it is **not** important how old you are or what your physical condition is. You need to add the suffix **-less** to the noun 'regard' to express this meaning:

*regard + less = regardless*

## 5. Several changes

My parents have always \_\_\_\_\_ me to think on my own. COURAGE

### Feedback:

The correct answer is '**encouraged**'.

You need a past participle after 'have always'. You need to add the prefix **en-** to the noun 'courage' to form the verb:

*en + courage = encourage*

The past participle of the verb 'encourage' is regular:

*encouraged*

The seats in the plane were very \_\_\_\_\_. I had a backache for several days after the flight. COMFORT

### Feedback:

The correct answer is '**uncomfortable**'.

You need an adjective after 'were terribly'. You need to add the suffix **-able** to the noun 'comfort' to form the adjective:

*comfort + able → comfortable*

The context also tells you that the seats were **not** comfortable. You need to add the prefix **un-** to the adjective 'comfortable' to make it negative:

*un + comfortable → uncomfortable*



## Tips to score!

### How to approach the task

Here are some tips to help you deal successfully with this task:

- **Read the text.** Before you begin to work on the gaps, look at the title and read the whole text quickly to get a general idea of what the text is about. This will make it easier to find the missing words.
- **Read the sentence.** Read the whole sentence and pay particular attention to the language before and after the gap before you decide what the missing word is. Ask yourself:
  - 1) What type of word do you need? Do you need a verb, a noun, an adjective or an adverb?
  - 2) Do you need to add a prefix or a suffix? Do you need to make any spelling changes?
  - 3) Do you need the negative form of the word or do you need the plural?
  - 4) Do you need to make more than one change?
- **Understand the context.** Remember that sometimes you need to read the context before or after the sentence with the gap to help you make your choice. In this example from above, the correct word depends on the context after the gap ('I had a backache'):

*The seats in the plane were very uncomfortable. I had a backache for several days after the flight.*

- **Change the word in capital letters.** Remember that you must change the word given in capital letters.
- **Write only one word.** Some gaps may have different possible answers, for example both a singular and plural may be possible, but make sure that you write only one word.
- **Check spelling.** Check that your spelling is correct.
- **Make sure it makes sense.** When you have finished, read the whole text quickly again to make sure that your answers make sense in the context. Carefully check for negative forms and plurals.
- **Learn the forms of new words.** When learning a new word, make sure that you learn all its possible forms (verb, noun, adjective and adverb) and its negative form if there is one. A good monolingual dictionary will help you with this.