

12. My brother is a software ____ at a technology company.
a) engineer
b) enginist
c) engineor
d) enginian
13. The ____ checked all the passengers' passports at the gate.
a) examinst
b) examinor
c) examinian
d) examiner
14. The young ____ won first prize in the international competition.
a) pianoer
b) pianist
c) pianoor
d) pianian
15. The ____ repaired our broken washing machine yesterday.
a) electrician
b) electricer
c) electricist
d) electricor
16. The police caught the ____ outside the bank.
a) robist
b) robor
c) robber
d) robbian
17. She trained as a ____ for five years before opening her own practice.
a) surgist
b) surger
c) surgian
d) surgeon
18. The ____ translated the document from Japanese to English.
a) translater
b) translator
c) translatist
d) translateer
19. The award was presented to the ____ of the charity event.
a) organiser
b) organisor
c) organisian
d) organisee
20. All the ____ were informed about the changes to their pension plan.
a) retirers
b) retirists
c) retirors
d) retirees



Answers

1. b) teacher
2. c) actor
3. a) musician
4. c) employees
5. d) artist
6. a) driver
7. c) inventor
8. b) dentist
9. d) librarian
10. b) journalist
11. b) interviewee
12. a) engineer
13. d) examiner
14. b) pianist
15. a) electrician
16. c) robber
17. d) surgeon
18. b) translator
19. a) organiser
20. d) retirees



Explanations

1. “teacher” (b)

We add -er to 'teach' to form the person who teaches. The suffix -er is one of the most common agent suffixes in English.

2. “actor” (c)

We add -or to 'act' to form 'actor' (a person who acts). Some words take -or instead of -er — this must be memorised.

3. “musician” (a)

We add -ian to 'music' to form 'musician' (a person who plays music). The suffix -ian is common for people in arts and sciences.

4. “employees” (c)

We add -ee to 'employ' to form 'employee' (a person who IS employed). The suffix -ee indicates the person who receives the action, while -er/-or indicates the person who performs it.

5. “artist” (d)

We add -ist to 'art' to form 'artist' (a person who creates art). The suffix -ist often indicates a person with a particular skill or belief.

6. “driver” (a)

We add -er to 'drive' to form 'driver' (a person who drives). Note the spelling: we drop the silent 'e' before adding -er.

7. “inventor” (c)

We add -or to 'invent' to form 'inventor' (a person who invents). Words ending in -t often take the -or suffix.

8. “dentist” (b)

The word 'dentist' uses the suffix -ist, from the Latin root 'dent-' (tooth). The suffix -ist is common in medical and scientific professions.

9. “librarian” (d)

We add -ian to 'library' to form 'librarian' (a person who works in a library). Note the spelling change: 'y' is dropped before adding -ian.

10. “journalist” (b)

We add -ist to 'journal' to form 'journalist' (a person who writes for journals or newspapers).

11. “interviewee” (b)

We add -ee to 'interview' to form 'interviewee' (the person who IS interviewed). The suffix -ee indicates the person who receives the action. Compare: interviewer (-er = the person who conducts the interview).

12. “engineer” (a)

The word 'engineer' uses the suffix -eer, which indicates a person who works with or manages something. Other examples: volunteer, auctioneer.

13. “examiner” (d)

We add -er to 'examine' to form 'examiner' (a person who examines). Note: we drop the silent 'e' before adding -er.

14. “pianist” (b)

We add -ist to 'piano' to form 'pianist' (a person who plays piano). Note the spelling change: the 'o' is dropped before adding -ist.

15. “electrician” (a)

We add -ian to 'electric' to form 'electrician' (a person who works with electricity). The -ian suffix is common for skilled trades and professions.

16. “robber” (c)

We add -er to 'rob' to form 'robber'. Note the spelling: we double the final consonant 'b' before adding -er (rob → robber).

17. “surgeon” (d)

The word 'surgeon' uses the suffix -eon (a variant of -on), from Old French. This is an irregular formation that must be memorised.

18. “translator” (b)

We add -or to 'translate' to form 'translator'. Words based on Latin roots ending in '-ate' typically take the -or suffix (translate → translator, educate → educator).

19. “organiser” (a)

We add -er to 'organise' to form 'organiser' (the person who organises). Note: 'organizer' (with z) is also correct in American English.

20. “retirees” (d)

We add -ee to 'retire' to form 'retiree' (a person who has retired). The -ee suffix indicates the person who experiences or receives the action.