



Suffixes:

Mixed Suffix Practice: Exam-Style Challenge

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- The ___ examined the ancient bones discovered at the site.
a) archaeologer
b) archaeologist
c) archaeologian
d) archaeologor
- The ___ of the rainforest is a serious environmental issue.
a) destructment
b) destructness
c) destruction
d) destructance
- The hotel room was clean but not particularly _____.
a) spacious
b) spaceful
c) spaceive
d) spaceable
- The doctor advised him to ___ his diet by eating more vegetables.
a) diversate
b) diversise
c) diversen
d) diversify
- We need to ___ the kitchen — it looks very old and dated.
a) modernify
b) modernate
c) modernise
d) modernen
- His ___ to the team was remarkable — he felt at home within a week.
a) adaptment
b) adaptation
c) adaptness
d) adaptance
- It is ___ to drive without a valid licence in this country.
a) unlegal
b) dislegal
c) inlegal
d) illegal
- The storm caused ___ damage to houses along the coast.
a) considerable
b) considerible
c) consideruble
d) considereble
- She spoke ___ about her plans for the future.
a) enthusiastically
b) enthusiasticallyly
c) enthusiashticley
d) enthusiashtically
- The children's ___ during the school play was impressive.
a) behavement
b) behaveness
c) behavation
d) behaviour
- Please try to be more ___ — the neighbours are sleeping.
a) considerate
b) considerful
c) considerous
d) considerive



Answers

1. b) archaeologist
2. c) destruction
3. a) spacious
4. d) diversify
5. c) modernise
6. b) adaptation
7. d) illegal
8. a) considerable
9. d) enthusiastically
10. d) behaviour
11. a) considerate
12. d) widen
13. a) friendliness
14. c) unnecessary
15. c) participants
16. b) distance
17. a) renewable
18. b) knowledge
19. c) encouraging
20. b) conversion



Explanations

1. “archaeologist” (b)

We add -ist to 'archaeology' to form 'archaeologist'. The suffix -ist is used for experts and specialists in academic fields (biologist, psychologist, geologist).

2. “destruction” (c)

The verb 'destroy' forms the noun 'destruction' with -tion. Note the significant root change: destroy → destruct- → destruction.

3. “spacious” (a)

The noun 'space' takes the suffix -ious (a variant of -ous) to form 'spacious' (having a lot of space). Note the spelling: the 'e' is dropped and '-ious' is added.

4. “diversify” (d)

The adjective 'diverse' takes the suffix -ify to form the verb 'diversify' (to make diverse). The suffix -ify means 'to make or become'. Other examples: simple → simplify, beauty → beautify.

5. “modernise” (c)

The adjective 'modern' takes the suffix -ise to form the verb 'modernise' (to make modern). The suffix -ise/-ize means 'to make or become'. American English uses -ize (modernize).

6. “adaptation” (b)

The verb 'adapt' forms the noun 'adaptation' with -ation. Verbs ending in '-t' often form nouns with -ation (adapt → adaptation, inform → information).

7. “illegal” (d)

The correct negative form is 'illegal' using the prefix il-. Before words starting with 'l', the prefix in- changes to il- (legal → illegal, logical → illogical). This is a contrast question: unlike suffixes (which change word class), prefixes like un-, il-, dis- change meaning while keeping the same word class.

8. “considerable” (a)

The correct spelling is 'considerable' with -able. The verb 'consider' is a complete English word, so we typically use -able rather than -ible.

9. “enthusiastically” (d)

The adjective 'enthusiastic' takes the suffix -ally to form the adverb 'enthusiastically'. Adjectives ending in -ic add -ally (not just -ly) to form adverbs: basic → basically, dramatic → dramatically.

10. “behaviour” (d)

The verb 'behave' forms the noun 'behaviour' with the suffix -iour (British) / -ior (American). This is an irregular suffix — most verbs don't take -iour.

11. “considerate” (a)

The verb 'consider' forms the adjective 'considerate' with the suffix -ate. Note: 'considerable' (-able) means 'large in amount', while 'considerate' (-ate) means 'thoughtful towards others'.

12. “widen” (d)

The adjective 'wide' takes the suffix -en to form the verb 'widen' (to make wider). The suffix -en is added to short adjectives: dark → darken, deep → deepen, short → shorten.

13. “friendliness” (a)

The adjective 'friendly' takes the suffix -ness to form the noun 'friendliness'. Note: for adjectives already ending in -ly, we use -ness to form the noun (lonely → loneliness, lovely → loveliness).

14. “unnecessary” (c)

The correct negative form is 'unnecessary' with the prefix un-. This is a contrast question: 'necessary' takes un- (not in-, dis-, or im-) to form its negative. Recognising whether a word uses a prefix or suffix is an important exam skill.

15. “participants” (c)

The verb 'participate' forms the person noun 'participant' with the suffix -ant. The suffix -ant/-ent can describe both adjectives (important) and people (participant, assistant, student).

16. “distance” (b)

The adjective 'distant' forms the noun 'distance' with the suffix -ance. Remember: -ant adjectives → -ance nouns (distant → distance, important → importance).

17. “renewable” (a)

The verb 'renew' takes -able to form 'renewable'. Since 'renew' can stand alone as a complete English word, we use -able. The prefix re- means 'again', and -able means 'capable of being'.

18. “knowledge” (b)

The verb 'know' forms the noun 'knowledge' with the suffix -ledge. This is an irregular formation that must be memorised — it doesn't follow standard suffix patterns.

19. “encouraging” (c)

The verb 'encourage' forms the adjective 'encouraging' using the -ing suffix as a participial adjective. The -ing adjective describes the thing that causes the feeling (encouraging results = results that give encouragement).

20. “conversion” (b)

The verb 'convert' forms the noun 'conversion' with -sion. Note the spelling: the 't' changes to 's' before -ion. Verbs ending in '-rt' often form nouns with -sion (convert → conversion, divert → diversion).