



## Suffixes:

# C1 Academic Suffixes – Advanced Word Formation & Latin Roots

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- The \_\_\_\_ of the factory to toxic waste resulted in a class-action lawsuit against the corporation.  
a) exposurement  
b) exposition  
c) exposure  
d) exposal
- Improving digital \_\_\_\_ among elderly citizens has become a key government priority in several European countries.  
a) literacy  
b) literateness  
c) literation  
d) literament
- Following the CEO's sudden \_\_\_\_ from the project, the board appointed an interim director to oversee operations.  
a) withdrawness  
b) withdrawment  
c) withdrawing  
d) withdrawal
- There is a widespread \_\_\_\_ that the reforms have failed, although the evidence suggests otherwise.  
a) perceptiveness  
b) perception  
c) perceiving  
d) perceptivity
- The university requires the \_\_\_\_ of all supporting documents at least six weeks before the start of term.  
a) submitment  
b) submittance  
c) submitting  
d) submission
- The author's vivid \_\_\_\_ of the landscape transported readers to the remote Himalayan village.  
a) description  
b) descriptiveness  
c) describtion  
d) descriptor
- The government's \_\_\_\_ of the environmental report was criticised by scientists who had contributed to the research.  
a) acknowledgedness  
b) acknowledgedity  
c) acknowledgement  
d) acknowledging
- Her \_\_\_\_ of the cultural differences between the two countries made her an ideal candidate for the diplomatic role.  
a) awarement  
b) awareness  
c) awarity  
d) awaring
- The \_\_\_\_ she felt after losing the championship was evident in her post-match interview.  
a) bitterness  
b) bitterment  
c) bitterty  
d) bittering





## Answers

1. c) exposure
2. a) literacy
3. d) withdrawal
4. b) perception
5. d) submission
6. a) description
7. c) acknowledgement
8. b) awareness
9. a) bitterness
10. d) economic
11. b) historical
12. c) exacerbate
13. a) fluctuate
14. d) modernisation
15. b) systematically
16. c) implementation
17. d) vagueness
18. a) admissible
19. b) substantiate
20. c) privatisation



# Explanations

## 1. “exposure” (c)

The noun form of 'expose' is 'exposure', using the Latin-derived suffix '-ure'. This suffix forms abstract nouns from verbs (expose → exposure, fail → failure, close → closure). English does not use '-ment' or '-ion' with 'expose'.

## 2. “literacy” (a)

'Literacy' is formed from 'literate' + '-acy' (with the '-ate' dropped). The suffix '-acy' forms abstract nouns from adjectives ending in '-ate': accurate → accuracy, private → privacy, literate → literacy. '-ness' is theoretically possible for adjectives but 'literacy' is the established form.

## 3. “withdrawal” (d)

The noun form of 'withdraw' is 'withdrawal', using the suffix '-al'. Several verbs form nouns with '-al' rather than '-ment' or '-tion': approve → approval, dismiss → dismissal, renew → renewal, withdraw → withdrawal. These are common in formal and business English.

## 4. “perception” (b)

'Perception' is the noun meaning 'a belief or understanding'. It follows the Latin root transformation: -ceive → -ception (perceive → perception, conceive → conception, receive → reception). 'Perceptiveness' and 'perceptivity' both refer to the ability to perceive keenly — a different meaning. 'Perceiving' is a gerund and unnatural in this context.

## 5. “submission” (d)

'Submission' follows the Latin root transformation: -mit → -mission (submit → submission, admit → admission, permit → permission). English does not form nouns from '-mit' verbs using '-ment' or '-ance'. Knowing this root pattern is key to C1-level word formation.

## 6. “description” (a)

'Description' follows the Latin root transformation: -scribe → -scription (describe → description, prescribe → prescription, subscribe → subscription). 'Description' is a common learner error — note the root change from '-scribe' to '-scrip-'. 'Descriptiveness' means 'the quality of being descriptive' (a different meaning), and 'descriptor' is a technical term.

## 7. “acknowledgement” (c)

'Acknowledgement' is formed from the verb 'acknowledge' + '-ment'. The suffix '-ment' typically attaches to verbs to form abstract nouns (develop → development, achieve → achievement, manage → management). The key rule: verb base → '-ment'. '-ness' attaches to adjectives, not verbs.

## 8. “awareness” (b)

'Awareness' is formed from the adjective 'aware' + '-ness'. The key discrimination: '-ment' attaches to verbs (acknowledge → acknowledgement), while '-ness' attaches to adjectives (aware → awareness, effective → effectiveness, bitter → bitterness). 'Aware' is an adjective, so it takes '-ness'.

## 9. “bitterness” (a)

'Bitterness' is formed from the adjective 'bitter' + '-ness'. Don't be misled by 'betterment' (which exists because 'better' can function as a verb meaning 'to improve'). 'Bitter' is only an adjective, so it takes '-ness', not '-ment'.

## 10. “economic” (d)

'Economic' means 'relating to the economy or economics' (economic growth, economic impact). 'Economical' means 'thrifty, not wasteful' (an economical car). This is a classic C1 distinction: '-ic' describes the field/system, while '-ical' describes the quality of saving resources. Here, the impact relates to the economy, so 'economic' is correct.

### 11. “historical” (b)

'Historical' means 'relating to or concerning the study of history' (historical research, historical analysis). 'Historic' means 'famous or important in history' (a historic victory, a historic building). A 'historical analysis' is an academic examination of past events. A 'historic analysis' would mean a landmark, ground-breaking analysis — not the intended meaning here.

### 12. “exacerbate” (c)

'Exacerbate' is a verb meaning 'to make worse', formed with the Latin suffix '-ate'. After the modal 'could', a base verb is required. 'Exacerbation' is the noun form. The suffix '-ate' forms many academic verbs from Latin roots: deteriorate, fluctuate, manipulate, substantiate.

### 13. “fluctuate” (a)

'Fluctuate' is the verb form (Latin suffix '-ate'). After 'continued to', a base verb is required. 'Fluctuation' is the noun. The word family: fluctuate (verb) → fluctuation (noun) → fluctuating (adjective). Recognising which word class is needed in context is a key C1 skill.

### 14. “modernisation” (d)

'Modernisation' is formed through a double-suffix chain: modern (adjective) → modernise (verb, '-ise') → modernisation (noun, '-ation'). This '-ise + -ation' pattern is extremely common in academic English: industrialise → industrialisation, privatise → privatisation, globalise → globalisation. 'Modernism' is an artistic/philosophical movement — a different meaning entirely.

### 15. “systematically” (b)

An adverb is needed to modify the verb 'analysed'. The chain: system (noun) → systematic (adjective, '-atic') → systematically (adverb, '-ally'). 'Systematic' is the adjective form and cannot modify a verb. 'Systematical' is non-standard — the established adjective is 'systematic'. Note: '-ically' is the standard adverb ending for adjectives in '-ic': historic → historically, automatic → automatically.

### 16. “implementation” (c)

'Implementation' is formed from the verb 'implement' + '-ation'. Although '-ment' is the typical verb-to-noun suffix, some verbs take '-ation' instead: implement → implementation (not \*implementment), complement → complementation. 'Implemention' is a common misspelling — the full suffix is '-ation', not '-ion'. Knowing which verbs take '-ation' vs '-ment' requires familiarity with specific word families.

### 17. “vagueness” (d)

'Vagueness' is formed from the adjective 'vague' + '-ness'. Since 'vague' is an adjective (not a verb), it takes '-ness' rather than '-ment'. The '-ment' suffix attaches to verbs (develop → development), while '-ness' attaches to adjectives (vague → vagueness, dark → darkness, effective → effectiveness).

### 18. “admissible” (a)

'Admissible' follows the Latin root pattern: admit (verb) → admission (noun, -mit → -mission) → admissible (adjective, -miss- + -ible). The '-ible' ending is used because the root comes from Latin. 'Admissable' is a common misspelling — it must be '-ible', not '-able'. 'Admittable' incorrectly applies the English '-able' pattern to a Latin root.

### 19. “substantiate” (b)

'Substantiate' means 'to provide evidence to support'. It uses the Latin verb suffix '-ate'. 'Subsidise' means 'to fund financially' — wrong meaning. 'Substitute' means 'to replace' — wrong meaning. 'Substantify' is not a standard English word. At C1 level, distinguishing between '-ate', '-ise', and '-ify' verb suffixes often depends on knowing the specific word rather than applying a rule.

### 20. “privatisation” (c)

'Privatisation' is a double-suffix formation: private (adjective) → privatise (verb, '-ise') → privatisation (noun, '-ation'). This chain is productive in academic and political English: national → nationalise → nationalisation, industrial → industrialise → industrialisation. 'Privateness' means 'the quality of being private' — a different concept from the economic process of transferring public services to private ownership.