



Word Formation:

Advanced Word Formation: C1 Word Building & Academic Derivation

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- Her ___ handling of the negotiations provoked outrage among the delegates and led to the collapse of the peace talks.
a) diplomat
b) diplomatic
c) undiplomatic
d) diplomatically
- The scientist was able to ___ the results of the original experiment, thereby strengthening the theory's credibility.
a) substantiate
b) substantial
c) substance
d) substantially
- The two expert reports presented ___ conclusions, forcing the committee to commission an entirely new investigation.
a) reconciled
b) irreconcilable
c) reconciling
d) reconciliation
- The poor ___ of the satellite television signal was caused by atmospheric interference during the storm.
a) receptive
b) receptionist
c) receipt
d) reception
- The research paper was rejected due to the ___ of its methodology, which failed to account for several key variables.
a) inadequate
b) inadequately
c) inadequacy
d) inadequateness
- The politician behaved ___ during the televised debate, making personal attacks rather than addressing policy issues.
a) professional
b) unprofessional
c) professionally
d) unprofessionally
- The professor's ___ of the complex theory made it accessible even to first-year undergraduates.
a) elucidation
b) elucidate
c) elucidative
d) elucidated
- The journalist's deliberate ___ of the crime statistics gave the public a completely false impression, resulting in a formal complaint to the press regulator.
a) representation
b) misrepresentation
c) representational
d) representative

20. The artist's later works are ____ different from her early paintings, reflecting a profound shift in both technique and subject matter.

- a) fundament
- c) fundamental

- b) fundamentally
- d) fundamentalism



Answers

1. c) undiplomatic
2. a) substantiate
3. b) irreconcilable
4. d) reception
5. c) inadequacy
6. d) unprofessionally
7. a) elucidation
8. b) misrepresentation
9. c) conception
10. d) irresponsible
11. a) differentiate
12. b) disproportionately
13. d) unauthorised
14. c) effectiveness
15. a) proof
16. b) indisputable
17. d) unsatisfactorily
18. c) admissibility
19. a) instrumental
20. b) fundamentally



Explanations

1. “undiplomatic” (c)

'Undiplomatic' is the correct adjective to modify the noun 'handling.' The context ('provoked outrage' and 'collapse') clearly requires a negative meaning — diplomatic handling would not provoke outrage, ruling out 'diplomatic.' 'Diplomat' is a noun and 'diplomatically' is an adverb — neither can modify a noun in this position. This word involves a three-step derivation: diplomat → diplomatic → undiplomatic.

2. “substantiate” (a)

After 'to,' a verb is required. 'Substantiate' means to provide evidence to support a claim. 'Substantial' (adjective), 'substance' (noun), and 'substantially' (adverb) cannot follow 'to' in this grammatical structure. This is a formal Latinate verb commonly used in academic and legal writing.

3. “irreconcilable” (b)

'Irreconcilable' means 'impossible to reconcile' and is the correct adjective to describe conclusions so contradictory that a new investigation was needed. 'Reconciled' means already resolved — the opposite of what happened. 'Reconciling' means bringing things into agreement, which also contradicts the context. 'Reconciliation' is a noun and cannot directly modify 'conclusions.' Note the prefix *ir-* (used before words starting with 'r').

4. “reception” (d)

'Reception' is the correct noun meaning the quality of receiving a broadcast signal. Note the consonant shift from 'receive' to 'reception' (v → pt). 'Receptive' means willing to consider new ideas (adjective). 'Receptionist' means a person who greets visitors. 'Receipt' means a written acknowledgment of payment — a completely different meaning despite sharing the same root.

5. “inadequacy” (c)

After 'the' and before 'of,' a noun is required. 'Inadequacy' is the standard established noun form meaning the quality of being inadequate. While 'inadequateness' theoretically exists as a word, it is non-standard and virtually never used in academic writing — 'inadequacy' is the accepted form. 'Inadequate' is an adjective and 'inadequately' is an adverb.

6. “unprofessionally” (d)

The verb 'behave' requires an adverb to describe the manner of behaviour. The context ('making personal attacks') requires the negative form. 'Unprofessionally' is the correct negative adverb. 'Professionally' is positive and contradicts the context. 'Professional' and 'unprofessional' are adjectives and cannot modify the verb 'behaved' directly. This word involves multiple affixation steps: profession → professional → professionally → unprofessionally.

7. “elucidation” (a)

After the possessive 'professor's,' a noun is required. 'Elucidation' means a clear explanation or clarification — a formal academic noun derived from the Latin verb 'elucidare.' 'Elucidate' is a verb, 'elucidative' is a rare adjective, and 'elucidated' is a past participle — none can serve as the main noun in this position.

8. “misrepresentation” (b)

'Misrepresentation' means a false or misleading account of something. The word 'deliberate' combined with the context ('completely false impression' and 'formal complaint') makes it clear that the statistics were intentionally presented incorrectly, requiring the prefix *mis-*. 'Representation' is neutral and cannot explain the deliberate creation of a false impression. 'Representational' is an adjective and 'representative' is a noun/adjective meaning a typical example — neither fits grammatically or semantically.

9. “conception” (c)

After 'original' and before 'of,' a noun is needed. 'Conception' means an original idea or plan — note the root alternation from -ceive to -cept- (conceive → conception), a pattern also seen in receive → reception and deceive → deception. 'Conceivable' is an adjective meaning imaginable. 'Conceived' is a past participle. 'Conceive' is a verb. Only the noun form fits this grammatical position.

10. “irresponsible” (d)

An adjective is needed to modify the noun 'dismissal.' The context ('put the workforce at risk') requires a negative meaning. 'Irresponsible' means lacking a sense of responsibility — the prefix *ir-* is used before words beginning with 'r.' 'Responsible' is positive and contradicts the dangerous outcome. 'Responsibility' is a noun and 'responsibly' is an adverb — neither can modify a noun.

11. “differentiate” (a)

After 'to,' a verb in base form is required. 'Differentiate between' means to identify the differences between things — a formal Latinate verb used in academic and professional contexts. 'Differentiation' (noun), 'differential' (noun/adjective), and 'differently' (adverb) cannot follow 'to' in this infinitive structure.

12. “disproportionately” (b)

An adverb is needed to modify the adjective 'low.' 'Disproportionately' means to an unreasonably large or small degree relative to something else. 'Disproportionate' is an adjective and cannot modify another adjective. 'Proportion' is a noun and 'proportional' is an adjective — neither fits. This word demonstrates complex morphology: proportion → proportionate → disproportionate → disproportionately (four derivation steps).

13. “unauthorised” (d)

'Unauthorised' means done without official permission — the prefix *un-* negates the meaning of 'authorised.' The phrase 'clear violation of citizens' privacy rights' makes it impossible for the use to be 'authorised' (approved). 'Authorisation' is a noun and cannot modify 'use' as an adjective. 'Authoritative' means commanding and self-confident — a completely different meaning that doesn't fit this context of illegal surveillance.

14. “effectiveness” (c)

After 'The' and before 'of,' a noun is required. 'Effectiveness' means the degree to which something is successful in producing the desired result. 'Effect' means a result or consequence, not the quality of being effective — 'effect in reducing' is semantically awkward. 'Effective' and 'effectual' are adjectives and cannot fill a noun position. Note the suffix distinction: -ness creates an abstract quality noun from the adjective 'effective.'

15. “proof” (a)

'Proof' is the correct noun meaning evidence that demonstrates the truth of something. Note the irregular derivation: the verb 'prove' becomes the noun 'proof' through a consonant change (v → f), unlike regular patterns such as move → movement. 'Prove' is a verb, 'proven' is a past participle/adjective, and 'provable' is an adjective — none can serve as the noun object of 'provide.'

16. “indisputable” (b)

'Indisputable' means impossible to question or deny — the prefix *in-* negates 'disputable.' The phrase 'leaving no room for doubt' confirms that the evidence is beyond question. 'Disputable' means open to debate — the opposite of what's described. 'Disputed' means currently being challenged, which contradicts the certainty expressed. 'Disputably' is an adverb and cannot modify the noun 'evidence.' Note: the prefix is *in-* (not *un-*) for this Latinate adjective.

17. “unsatisfactorily” (d)

The verb 'perform' requires an adverb to describe the manner. The context ('repeated warnings' and 'termination') demands a negative meaning. 'Unsatisfactorily' is the correct negative adverb. 'Satisfactorily' is positive and contradicts the context. 'Satisfactory' is an adjective and 'satisfaction' is a noun — neither can modify a verb. This word involves multiple morphological steps: satisfy → satisfactory → satisfactorily → unsatisfactorily.

18. “admissibility” (c)

After 'the' and before 'of,' a noun is required. 'Admissibility' is a legal term meaning the quality of being allowed as evidence in court. This word follows a sophisticated derivation chain: admit → admissible → admissibility. 'Admissible' is an adjective, 'admit' is a verb, and 'admittedly' is an adverb — none can fill the noun position. Note the consonant change from admit (t) to admissible (ss).

19. “instrumental” (a)

'Instrumental' is the correct adjective in the fixed collocation 'be instrumental in (doing something),' meaning to play a key role. 'Instrument' is a noun and cannot follow 'been' as a predicate. 'Instrumentally' is an adverb — while adverbs can sometimes follow 'be,' the established expression is 'be instrumental in.' 'Instrumentation' means the arrangement of music for instruments or the design of measuring instruments — an entirely different meaning.

20. “fundamentally” (b)

An adverb is needed to modify the adjective 'different.' 'Fundamentally' means at the most basic or important level. 'Fundamental' is an adjective and cannot modify another adjective — you cannot say 'fundamental different.' 'Fundament' is an archaic/rare noun meaning foundation. 'Fundamentalism' refers to strict adherence to basic principles of a religion or ideology — a completely unrelated concept.