Adjective Formation

CEFR B2 · Productive suffixes, prefix nuance and compound adjectives

WS1 Choosing the Right Suffix · WS2 Prefix Nuance · WS3 Compound Adjectives · WS4 Analysis & Writing · Answer Key

Worksheet 1: Choosing the Right Suffix

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: One Base, Several Suffixes

A single base can take different suffixes with different meanings, and only one is usually right in context. Compare *respectful / respectable / respective*. At B2 you must select by meaning and control the spelling and stress shifts.

Base	Adjectives	Different meanings
respect	respectful / respectable / respective	polite / decent / each own
sense	sensible / sensitive / sensory	wise / easily affected / of the senses
economy	economic / economical	of the economy / money-saving
history	historic / historical	important in history / relating to history
class	classic / classical	typical/best / traditional style

Part A – Choose the Correct Adjective

1. She gave a _____ answer — very wise. (sense)
2. This small car is very _____; it saves fuel. (economy)
3. It was a _____ moment — the first landing on the Moon. (history)
4. He's a _____ young man, always polite to elders. (respect)
5. She studies _____ music — Mozart, Bach. (class)

Part B – Explain the Difference

#	Pair	Difference
1	a historic building / a historical novel	
2	a sensible person / a sensitive person	
3	economic growth / an economical choice	

Score: _____ / 20

Worksheet 2: Prefix Nuance

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: Prefixes Beyond "Not"

Prefixes convey precise meanings: degree (**over-, under-, hyper-**), relation (**inter-, anti-, pro-, counter-**), time/order (**pre-, post-, ex-**), and more. Some negatives also differ in force: *amoral* (no morals) vs *immoral* (against morals). Choose for exact meaning.

Prefix	Meaning	Example
hyper- / over-	excessively	hyperactive, oversensitive
inter-	between	international, interactive
anti- / pro-	against / in favour	anti-social, pro-democratic
pre- / post-	before / after	pre-war, post-industrial
a- vs im-	lacking vs against	amoral vs immoral

Part A – Add the Best Prefix

1. _____ active (excessively) → _____
2. _____ war (before) → _____
3. _____ national (between nations) → _____
4. _____ social (against society) → _____
5. _____ sensitive (too much) → _____

Part B – Fine Distinctions

1. A person with no sense of right/wrong is _____. (moral: a-)
2. An action that is clearly wrong is _____. (moral: im-)
3. A former president is an _____-president. (ex-)
4. Feeling ill before an exam might make you _____-nervous. (over-)

Part C – Complete the Sentence

1. The two teams held an _____ match. (nation → between)
2. The film explores _____-industrial decline. (post-)
3. He's _____ to the plan and keeps blocking it. (against → anti / opposed)

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: Compound Adjectives

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: Two Words, One Adjective

Compound adjectives join two or more words with a hyphen to describe a noun: *a well-known writer*, *a five-year-old child*. Common patterns include adverb + participle (*well-dressed*), number + noun (*ten-minute*), and noun + participle (*hand-made*). The noun after a number stays singular (*a two-hour film*).

Pattern	Example	Note
adverb + past participle	well-behaved, badly-lit	before the noun
adjective/noun + present participle	good-looking, time-consuming	active sense
number + noun (singular)	a five-star hotel	no plural -s
noun + past participle	sun-dried, hand-made	means 'by/with'
adjective + noun + -ed	left-handed, kind-hearted	'having…'

Part A – Form the Compound Adjective

1. a child who is 6 years old → a _____ child
2. a journey that takes 3 hours → a _____ journey
3. a person who works hard → a _____ person
4. a task that consumes time → a _____ task
5. a shirt made by hand → a _____ shirt

Part B – Correct the Compound

#	Wrong phrase	Correction
1	a five-years-old boy	
2	a well known actor (needs hyphen?)	
3	a ten-minutes break	
4	a good looking house	

Part C – Build a Description

Rewrite each using a compound adjective.

1. a man with an open mind → an _____ man
2. a decision made at the last minute → a _____ decision
3. a woman with a kind heart → a _____ woman

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Analysis & Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Part A – Passage Analysis

The newly-opened museum is both impressive and slightly overwhelming. Its award-winning design is strikingly modern, yet respectful of the historic quarter around it. The exhibits are thoughtfully arranged and remarkably accessible, though some visitors found the layout confusing. The knowledgeable, well-trained guides make even the most complex displays understandable. It is an unmissable, if occasionally tiring, experience — and a hugely successful addition to the city.

1. Find four compound adjectives and analyse how each is built.
2. Identify two -ing/-ed adjectives and explain the choice in context.
3. "unmissable" combines a prefix and a suffix. Break it down and give the base.
4. Find three suffix adjectives from different families and name each suffix's meaning.

Part B – Extended Writing

Write 160–190 words reviewing a place, product, or performance. You must include and underline: (1) at least three **compound adjectives**; (2) at least two **-ing/-ed** adjectives; (3) at least one adjective with both a **prefix and a suffix**; (4) at least three **different suffix families**; (5) consistent register.

#	Line
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	

Compounds: _____ / 3 -ing/-ed: _____ / 2 Prefix+suffix: _____ / 1 Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — B2 Level, Adjective Formation

Worksheet 1 – Part A

1 sensible · 2 economical · 3 historic · 4 respectful · 5 classical

Worksheet 1 – Part B (model)

1 historic = momentous/important in history; historical = relating to history / set in the past. · 2 sensible = having good judgement; sensitive = easily affected emotionally or physically. · 3 economic = relating to the economy; economical = money- or resource-saving.

Worksheet 2 – Part A

1 hyperactive · 2 pre-war · 3 international · 4 anti-social · 5 oversensitive

Worksheet 2 – Part B

1 amoral · 2 immoral · 3 ex-president · 4 over-nervous

Worksheet 2 – Part C

1 international · 2 post-industrial · 3 anti / opposed

Highlight amoral vs immoral: *a-* = absence of; *im-* = contrary to.

Worksheet 3 – Part A

1 six-year-old · 2 three-hour · 3 hard-working · 4 time-consuming · 5 hand-made

Worksheet 3 – Part B

1 a five-year-old boy · 2 a well-known actor · 3 a ten-minute break · 4 a good-looking house

Worksheet 3 – Part C

1 open-minded · 2 last-minute · 3 kind-hearted

Two rules learners forget: the noun after a number is singular (five-year-old), and attributive compounds are hyphenated.

Worksheet 4 – Part A (model)

1 newly-opened (adv + past participle), award-winning (noun + present participle), well-trained (adv + past participle), hugely successful (adv + adjective — arguably not hyphenated as -ly adverbs often aren't). · 2 overwhelming (-ing, the cause), confusing (-ing, the cause); could contrast with a felt "-ed" form. · 3 un- + miss + -able = "not able to be missed"; base verb "miss". · 4 impressive (-ive), accessible (-ible), knowledgeable (-able); meanings: having the quality / able to be ___ / having.

Note: -ly adverbs (newly, hugely, thoughtfully) are usually NOT hyphenated to the following adjective in modern usage; accept answers that recognise this.

Worksheet 4 – Part B: Marking Rubric

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Compound adjectives	Three+ well-formed, correct hyphenation	0–5
-ing/-ed adjectives	Two+ correct in context	0–4

Prefix + suffix	One correct multi-affix adjective	0–3
Range & register	Three suffix families; consistent; 160–190 words	0–3