Mixed Word Formation

CEFR C1 · Precise derivation, register and exam transformation

WS1 Complex Word Families · WS2 Form, Meaning & Register · WS3 Multi-Affix Precision · WS4 Exam Gap-Fill & Analysis · Answer Key

Worksheet 1: Complex Word Families

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: C1 (CEFR)

Reference: When Families Split by Meaning

At C1, many families offer near-synonymous derivatives that have diverged: *sensible / sensitive / sensory*; *economic / economical*; *childish / childlike*. The exam rewards the member whose **meaning and register** fit exactly, not merely the right word class.

Root	Rival derivatives	Distinction
sense	sensible / sensitive / sensory	wise / easily affected / of the senses
economy	economic / economical	of the economy / money-saving
child	childish / childlike	immature (neg) / innocent (pos)
compare	comparable / comparative	roughly equal / relative
continue	continual / continuous	repeated / unbroken

Part A – Choose the Exact Member

1. a _____ improvement — steady and unbroken (continue)
2. a _____ delight — pure, innocent (child)
3. a _____ amount — roughly equal (compare)
4. a _____ person — easily hurt (sense)
5. an _____ solution — money-saving (economy)

Part B – Explain the Split

#	Pair	Distinction
1	continual / continuous	
2	comparable / comparative	
3	sensible / sensitive	

Score: _____ / 20

Worksheet 2: Form, Meaning & Register

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: C1 (CEFR)

Reference: The Third Dimension — Register

Beyond class and meaning, C1 items test **register and connotation**. A gap may need a formal derivative (*-ise, -ory*), a negative with the right prefix, or a word whose connotation matches the tone (*assertive* not *aggressive*). Choose the form a careful writer would.

Dimension	Test	Example
class	what slot?	the **analysis** / to **analyse**
meaning	which sense?	**economic** vs **economical**
negative prefix	which one?	**irrational**, **disloyal**
connotation	positive/negative?	**assertive** vs **aggressive**
register	formal enough?	**advantageous** vs 'good'

Part A – Choose Form and Register

1. Her manner was confident and _____, never rude. (assert → positive adjective)
2. The change proved highly _____ for the firm. (advantage → formal adjective)
3. His argument was completely _____. (rational → negative)
4. The staff were praised for their _____. (loyal → noun)
5. The report was written _____. (persuade → adverb)

Part B – Repair Register or Connotation

#	Sentence	Better word
1	The manager was aggressive but effective. (want: positive)	
2	The plan was very good for shareholders. (want: formal)	
3	His behaviour was childlike and annoying. (want: negative)	

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: Multi-Affix Precision

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: C1 (CEFR)

Reference: Building Long, Precise Words

C1 word-formation often requires three or more morphemes with correct prefix selection, allomorphy and stress: *character* → *uncharacteristically* (un- + character + -istic + -al + -ly). Blocking and irregular bases matter: *strength* not **strongness*, *maintenance* not **maintainment*.

Base	Built word	Parts
character	uncharacteristically	un- + character + -istic + -al + -ly
responsible	irresponsibility	ir- + responsible + -ity
maintain	maintenance	irregular noun (not *maintainment)
sustain	unsustainable	un- + sustain + -able
consider	inconsiderately	in- + consider + -ate + -ly

Part A – Build (mind allomorphy & blocking)

1. character (adverb, negative) → _____
2. responsible (noun, negative) → _____
3. maintain (noun) → _____
4. sustain (adjective, negative) → _____
5. consider (adverb, negative) → _____

Part B – Correct the Overbuilt or Wrong Form

#	Wrong word	Correction
1	*strongness	
2	*maintainment	
3	*unpossible	
4	*proofs (as verb: to demonstrate)	

Part C – Complete the Sentence

1. He behaved _____, which shocked us. (character → negative adverb)
2. The current model is environmentally _____. (sustain → negative)
3. The building's _____ costs are high. (maintain → noun)
4. They acted with total _____. (responsible → negative noun)

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Exam Gap-Fill & Analysis

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: C1 (CEFR)

Part A – Word Formation (exam style)

Use the word in CAPITALS to form a word that fits each gap.

The proposal was met with _____ from several quarters. **(SCEPTIC)**

Its assumptions struck many as _____. **(REASON → negative)**

The committee acted with uncharacteristic _____. **(DECIDE)**

Critics questioned the _____ of the whole scheme. **(SUSTAIN → noun, negative)**

Supporters, however, spoke _____ in its favour. **(PASSION)**

The outcome remains _____. **(PREDICT → negative)**

Part B – Analyse the Derivations

For three words you formed above, break them into morphemes and note any spelling/stress change.

#	Word	Morphemes + note
1		
2		
3		

Part C – Extended Writing

Write 160–200 words evaluating a proposal or trend. You must include and underline: (1) at least **eight formed words** across all four classes; (2) at least one pair of **rival derivatives** (e.g. economic/economical) used correctly; (3) at least two **multi-affix** words; (4) at least one form chosen for **register/connotation**. Maintain a formal register.

#	Line
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

8	

Formed: _____ / 8 Rival pair: _____ / 1 Multi-affix: _____ / 2 Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — C1 Level, Mixed Word Formation

Worksheet 1 – Part A

1 continuous · 2 childlike · 3 comparable · 4 sensitive · 5 economical

Worksheet 1 – Part B (model)

1 continual = repeated with breaks; continuous = unbroken. · 2 comparable = similar/roughly equal; comparative = relative, based on comparison. · 3 sensible = having good judgement; sensitive = easily affected.

Worksheet 2 – Part A

1 assertive · 2 advantageous · 3 irrational · 4 loyalty · 5 persuasively

Worksheet 2 – Part B (model)

1 assertive · 2 advantageous / beneficial · 3 childish.

Worksheet 3 – Part A

1 uncharacteristically · 2 irresponsibility · 3 maintenance · 4 unsustainable · 5 inconsiderately

Worksheet 3 – Part B

1 strength · 2 maintenance · 3 impossible · 4 prove (verb) / proof (noun)

Worksheet 3 – Part C

1 uncharacteristically · 2 unsustainable · 3 maintenance · 4 irresponsibility

Worksheet 4 – Part A

1 scepticism · 2 unreasonable · 3 decisiveness · 4 unsustainability · 5 passionately · 6 unpredictable

Worksheet 4 – Part B (model)

e.g. unsustainability = un- + sustain + -abil(ity) (allomorphy -able→-abil-); scepticism = sceptic + -ism; decisiveness = decide→decis- + -ive + -ness (base allomorphy). Accept any three with correct segmentation.

Worksheet 4 – Part C: Marking Rubric

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Range across classes	Eight+ formed words, all classes	0–5
Rival derivatives	One pair used correctly	0–5
Multi-affix precision	Two+ correct, incl. allomorphy	0–5
Register & length	Formal; 160–200 words	0–5