

Word formation Lists and Practice

Group 1: Some tricky changes to the verb form of some adjectives/ nouns.

All the verbs in this group work the same i.e.
 'to lengthen' = to make something long/longer
 'to strengthen' = to make something strong/stronger

Adjective	Noun	Verb
long	length	lengthen
strong	strength	strengthen
deep	depth	deepen
wide	width	widen
broad	breadth	broaden
high	height	heighten
weak	weakness	weaken
short	(shortness)*	shorten
low	(lowness)*	lower
large	(largeness)*	enlarge

(*we don't really use these. There are other nouns which have different meanings e.g. 'shortage' = 'lack')

- 1) Some people think the school day is too short and want to _____ it.
- 2) Metal bars are added to concrete in order to _____ it.
- 3) What is the _____ of an Olympic diving pool?
- 4) In the second picture we can see that the road has been _____.
- 5) Travelling _____ the mind.
- 6) Raising the floor level meant that the roof had to be _____.
- 7) There are several _____ in his argument.
- 8) You could _____ your essay and still get a good mark.
- 9) Do you think the government should _____ the voting age to 16?
- 10) They _____ the kitchen by building over the garden.



Group 1 Answers:

- 1) Some people think the school day is too short and want to **lengthen** it.
- 2) Metal bars are added to concrete in order to **strengthen** it.
- 3) What is the **depth** of an Olympic diving pool?
- 4) In the second picture we can see that the road has been **widened**.
- 5) Travelling **broadens** the mind.
- 6) Raising the floor level meant that the roof had to be **heightened**.
- 7) There are several **weaknesses** in his argument.
- 8) You could **shorten** your essay and still get a good mark.
- 9) Do you think the government should **lower** the voting age to 16?
- 10) They **enlarged** the kitchen by building over the garden.

Group 2: Some tricky/irregular Adjectives to Nouns

Adjective	Noun
proud	pride
guilty	guilt
wealthy	wealth
healthy	health
true	truth
young	youth
poor	poverty
brave	bravery
hungry	hunger
thirsty	thirst
severe	severity



Choose the correct form of the words for the gaps below:

- 1) Everyone should take _____ (proud) in their work.
- 2) Many new mothers experience feelings of _____ (guilty) when they go back to work.
- 3) South Africa has great mineral _____ (wealthy).
- 4) The government is responsible for the _____ (healthy) of its people.
- 5) Politicians are well known for being economical with the _____ (true).
- 6) The _____ (young) of today do not appreciate how lucky they are.
- 7) _____ (poor) is one of the world's biggest problems.
- 8) We must never forget the _____ (brave) of those who fought for our freedom.
- 9) Surely more can be done to alleviate the problem of _____ (hungry).
- 10) To get ahead, you need to be ambitious and have a _____ (thirsty) for success.
11. Prison sentences should reflect the _____ (severe) of the crime.

Group 2 Answers

1) Pride	6) Youth
2) Guilt	7) Poverty
3) Wealth	8) Bravery
4) Health	9) Hunger
5) Truth	10) Thirst
	11) Severity



Group 3: MORE tricky adjective to nouns!

Adjective	Noun
free	freedom
wise	wisdom
boring	boredom
grateful	gratitude
likely	likelihood
angry	anger
famous	fame
hot	heat
cruel	cruelty
cowardly	cowardice

Choose the correct form of the words for the gapse below:

- _____ (free) of speech is a fundamental human right.
- Many people question the _____ (wise) of privatising the NHS.
- Young people tend to commit crimes out of _____ (boring).
- I don't know how to express my _____ (grateful) for your help.
- Young people see no _____ (likely) of finding employment.
- I feel a strong sense of _____ (angry) when I see tax-payers' money being wasted.
- Many celebrities suffer the trappings of _____ (famous).
- It is easy to over-react in the _____ (hot) of the moment.
- _____ to animals should not be tolerated.
- During World War 2, many soldiers were punished for _____ (cowardly) and have since been pardoned.



Group 3: Answers

1. freedom	6. anger
2. Wisdom	7. fame
3. boredom	8. heat
4. gratitude	9. cruelty
5. likelihood	10. cowardice

Verbs which end in 'ify'

Look at the headline of the article below - what does it mean?

World's first electrified road for charging vehicles opens in Sweden

Choose the correct answer:

- Sweden has made a road which can charge **electric** cars.
- Sweden has made a road which can produce **electricity** to charge cars.
- Sweden has **electrified** a road so that it can charge cars.
- Sweden has installed its first **electrified** road for charging cars.
- The **electrification** of a road in Sweden allows electric cars to recharge.

Of course all of the sentences are correct.

They all say the same thing using a **different form** of the root word 'electric'.

Being able to use different forms will allow you more flexibility when you speak and write, and **flexibility** is a key criteria for IELTS Writing Band 7.

So make sure that you keep a **notebook** for word forms and practice them regularly by making sentences like these and doing practice sentences like the ones I've made for you below!



Group 4: verbs which end in 'ify'

Adjective	Verb	Meaning
just (right/fair)	justify	To prove sth is right/reasonable/true/fair
certain	certify	To confirm/officially recognize
significant	signify	To be evidence of, to be a sign of
mysterious	mystify	To confuse or puzzle someone
peaceful	pacify	To calm, bring peace
glorious	glorify	To make sth seem better than it is
united/unified	unify	To bring sth together
terrified	terrify	To frighten
horrified	horrify	To fill with horror
strong	fortify	To make something stronger

Choose the best form for the gaps - change the verb form if you need to!

1. The end does not always _____ the means.
2. Meat needs to be _____ as fit for human consumption.
3. There was a _____ increase in the price of petrol.
4. Maths is a subject that completely _____ me.
5. We all want to live in a _____ and harmonious society.
6. Films often _____ violence.
7. The government is attempting to _____ the country.
8. Dogs used to _____ me as a child, but now I quite like them.
9. I was _____ to find out how much my boss earns!
10. They _____ the town with an impenetrable wall.



Group 4 Answers

1. Justify
2. Certified
3. Significant
4. Mystifies
5. Peaceful
6. Glorify
7. Unify
8. Terrify
9. Horrified
10. Fortified

Group 5: MORE verbs which end in 'ify'

Adjective	Verb	Meaning
intense	intensify	To become more intense
beautiful	beautify	To make something more beautiful
solid	solidify	To become solid
liquid	liquify/liquefy	To make something liquid
simple	simplify	To make something more simple
false	falsify	To make something false
correct	rectify	To make something right
specific	specify	To identify clearly and precisely
pure	purify	To make something clean/pure
diverse	diversify	To make or become more varied



Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the VERBS:

1. Fighting has _____ (intense) over the last few days.
2. Sculptures are one way of _____ (beautiful) town centres.
3. The liquid is left to cool in order to _____ (solid).
4. Water is added to the mixture and it is then _____ (liquid) in a blender.
5. The complex process of applying for a visa needs to be _____ (simple).
6. _____ (false) documents is a serious crime.
7. More funding is needed to _____ (correct) the problem.
8. It is always best to _____ (specific) exactly what your requirements are.
9. The water is then _____ (pure) organically by being passed through a reed bed.
10. Small businesses need to _____ in order to attract and maintain new customers.

Group 5 Answers

1. Intensified
2. Beautify
3. Solidify
4. liquified/liquefied (UK/US)
5. Simplified
6. Falsifying
7. Rectify
8. Specify
9. Purify
10. diversify

