

WORD FORMATION

Vocabulary – Word Building

In the English language, there are two kinds of words: words that can be broken down into smaller units and words that cannot. The part of the word that cannot be separated are called base words. Let see some examples:

call **recall** **called** **caller**
 calls **calling** **uncalled**

weigh **weighs** **unweighted** **weight**
 overweight **weighed** **weights**

You can add words called **prefixes** or **suffixes** to change the form of the base word to suit different needs, they can be verbs, nouns, adjectives or adverbs.

Let see an example of the variations of the word settle and its different functions in a text.

- Settle** 1. to establish in residence *
 2. to make quiet or orderly *

settle **settlers** **settling** **unsettle** **settlements** **resettled** **unsettling**

In the 1800's, people who moved from Pennsylvania to Kentucky were called **settlers**. The forts or towns they built and lived in were called **settlements**. If the Indians attacked them and drove them away, people who later came back and moved onto the land were said to have **resettled** the land.

On a long trip, a mother may yell at her noisy children to **settle** down. She may say that their noise has an **unsettling** effect on her nerves. She hopes though, that the quiet, relaxing music she puts on the radio has a **settling** effect on them and they will go to sleep. But their father is afraid that the music may **unsettle** them more.

In the first paragraph, we need a noun to complete the sentence, **settlers** is a noun that refers to a name given to people. **Settlements** is also a noun indicating the name given to forts and towns and **resettled** is the appropriate complement for the present perfect tense.

*Merriam webster definition

Adapted examples from FCE exam format

On the other hand, **settle** and **unsettle** are verbs that are needed to complete the actions in the sentences; **settling** works in this case as an adjective.

Now it is your turn, complete the following text using the words:

eruption erupted

The most dangerous type of volcanic _____ is referred to as a 'glowing avalanche'. This is when freshly _____ magma forms hot pyroclastic flow which have temperatures of up to 1,200 degrees.

servant serviceable reservice disservice

A person who comes to our house to fix a washing machine or the refrigerator is called a _____ or repairman. After fixing the machine, he may say that it is an old machine, but it is still _____. On the other hand, if it breaks again, he may have to _____ it. He may be doing us a _____ if he does not tell us it is not worth fixing anymore.

Complete the text using a word that fits the text.

Garlic a member of the Liliaceae family which also includes onions is _____ (**common**) used in cooking all around the world. China is currently the largest _____ (**product**) of garlic, which is particularly associated with the dishes of northern Africa and southern Europe. It is native to central Asia and has long has a history as a health-giving food, used both to prevent and cure _____ (**ill**)

Have you ever played chess? Some say you need to be very _____ (**skill**) to play it well but it is quite easy to learn. I started learning when I was only six years old and it helped me develop my powers of _____ (**concentrate**). If you want to achieve _____ (**succeed**) as a chess player, the main requirement is an ability to analyse a situation _____ (**effective**). Chess even helped me find various _____ (**solve**) to the mathematical problems I was given for homework.