

# CAMBRIDGE FIRST SERIES

## WORD FAMILIES

In many of the exercises in the Cambridge First exam, you are going to be asked to show that you have a wide range of vocabulary, whether it is explicit in the exercise as it is in Use of English part 3 – word transformation – or implicit, as it is in the writing exercises, the speaking part or even the Use of English part 4 exercise – sentence transformation.

This content aims at widening your vocabulary for this tasks.

The content in here is not finite – these lists are not the only ones that you may need for a successful performance in the exam.

## PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

We use these to change the use of a word – it becomes a different part of speech (noun, adjective, adverb, verb) – or to make negatives and opposites.

These are the most common prefixes and suffixes:

### PREFIXES

**dis-** **il-** **ir-** **im-** **in-** **un-** They all mean 'no/not' or 'without'

honest → **dishonest**

legal → **illegal**

regular → **irregular**

possible → **impossible**

existent → **inexistent**

natural → **unnatural**

**re-** It means 'again'

do → **redo**

use → **reuse**

**sub-** It means 'below/less than/under'

way → **subway**

tropical → **subtropical**

**inter-** It means 'between'

**international** ( 'among nations' )

## SUFFIXES

### NOUN SUFFIXES

(act of process)	-al	propose → proposal	
(someone who)	-er / -or	act → actor (careful – the female is irregular, actress)	
		drive → driver	view → viewer
			divide → divider / divisor
(doctrine, belief)	-ism	national → nationalism	terror → terrorism
(someone who)	-ist	national → nationalist	terror → terrorist
(quality of)	-ity	national → nationality	integral → integrity
(condition of)	-ment	treat → treatment	equip → equipment
(state)	-ness	happy → happiness	homeless → homelessness
(state / situation)	-sion/-tion	educate → education	confess → confession

### VERB SUFFIXES

(become, change)	-en	short → shorten	sweet → sweeten
(become, change)	-ify/-fy	terror → terrify	quality → qualify
(become, change)	-ise	terror → terrorise	harmony → harmonise

### ADJECTIVE SUFFIXES

(capable of)	-able	comfort → comfortable	deny → deniable
(with, full of)	-ful	beauty → beautiful	stress → stressful
(related to)	-ic / -ical	science → scientific	history → historical
(characteristic)	-ious / -ous	fame → famous	vice → vicious
(quality of)	-ive	distinct → distinctive	product → productive
(without)	-less	home → homeless	sense → senseless

**SO BASED ON THIS WE CAN FORM THE FOLLOWING WORD FAMILIES**

This is just a sample. For a full list of word families, split by levels of the Common European framework you can follow this link <http://www.learnenglish.org.uk/wff/pdfs/wff.pdf>

ADJECTIVE		NOUN		VERB	ADVERB
ABLE UNABLE	DISABLED ENABLED	ABILITY DISABILITY INABILITY		DISABLE ENABLE	
ABUSIVE		ABUSE		ABUSE	ABUSIVELY
ACCESSIBLE INACCESSIBLE		ACCESS ACCESSIBILITY		ACCESS	
ACCIDENTAL		ACCIDENT			ACCIDENTALLY
ACTIVE INTERACTIVE INACTIVE	REACTIVE DEACTIVATED PROACTIVE	ACT ACTION ACTIVITY REACTION INTERACTION	ACTIVIST REACTOR ACTIVATION ACTIVISM INACTION	ACT REACT INTERACT ACTIVATE OVERREACT	ACTIVELY
BEAUTIFUL		BEAUTY			BEAUTIFULLY
CAPITAL		CAPITAL CAPITALISM	CAPITALIST CAPITALISTIC	CAPITALISE	
CELEBRATED		CELEBRITY CELEBRATION		CELEBRATE	
CERTAIN UNCERTAIN		CERTAINTY UNCERTAINTY		ASCERTAIN	CERTAINLY
COMMUNICATIVE		COMMUNICATION		COMMUNICATE	
COMPARABLE COMPARATIVE	IMCOMPARABLE	COMPARISON		COMPARE	COMPARATIVELY
DEPENDENT INDEPENDENT DEPENDING		DEPENDENCY DEPENDENCE INDEPENDENCE	INDEPENDENCY DEPENDANT	DEPEND	INDEPENDENTLY

**NOW GO TO THE NEXT PAGE AND COMPLETE THE PRACTICE EXERCISE**

PRACTICE EXERCISE: WORD FAMILIES

For questions 1-10, read the below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line.

There is an example at the beginning(0).

A CHANGED PERSON

I don't see my teenage godson as (0) *frequently* as I did in the past and  
 when I visited him and his family today I was (1) \_\_\_\_\_ surprised.  
 He's changed (2) \_\_\_\_\_ since the last time I saw him. Whereas he  
 used to be such a horrible (3) \_\_\_\_\_ little boy, now he is extremely  
 well-behaved and a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to be with. He seems to attach more  
 (5) \_\_\_\_\_ now to what others might be thinking of him and he  
 takes more care over his (6) \_\_\_\_\_. He has developed greater  
 (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in himself and his own judgement and he puts up stiff  
 (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to his parents' advice and decisions if he feels they are  
 wrong. (9) \_\_\_\_\_ he is beginning to take an interest in girls and his  
 mum tells me he's got a girlfriend. These, it seems, are his first steps towards  
 (10) \_\_\_\_\_ and it won't be very many years before he leaves home.

FREQUENT

PLEASE

SIGNIFY

OBEY

PLEASE

IMPORTANT

APPEAR

CONFIDE

RESIST

APPEAR

DEPEND

YOU CAN PRINT THIS PAGE TO DO THE EXERCISE. THE ANSWERS WILL BE GIVEN TOMORROW.