

How many words can you make?

- Aim:** To raise awareness of affixes in English and their similarities and differences with French affixes
- Materials:** Student worksheet "I hate Mondays", packages of cut-up word parts
- Vocabulary:** Various prefixes and suffixes

Note: The prefix *un-* is the most common prefix in English. It is a very useful one to know!

Procedure:

1. Write *un* on the board and ask the students what it means. If they assume it is French and say or "a" or "an", tell them that it is English.
2. Give the example *unhappy* and elicit the idea that the prefix *un* means something negative. Get them to give you some more examples of words with *un*. Write the words on the board using this format:
unhappy = un + happy
unkind = un + kind
undo = un + do
etc.
3. Tell them that you are going to give them a list of words and that their task is to divide the words into parts using the same format:
walked: walk + ed
unorganized: un + organize + ed
4. Give out Major Word Parts handout "I hate Mondays". Refer to the teachers' sheet for details for each of the underlined words. Elicit information about the words, drawing on similarities to French where possible.
5. Put students in small groups and give each group a package of the cut-out word parts (see Cut Out Word Parts sheet). Tell them that they have five minutes to make as many words as possible using the affixes. Specify that each time they make a new word, the group 'secretary'

writes it down so that there is a list of words to go through afterwards.

6. Here are the possible combinations (in alphabetical order by base word):

active	actively	inactive			
boring	boringly				
certain	certainly	certainness	uncertain		
efficient	inefficient	efficiently			
exciting	unexciting				
happy	unhappy	happier	happiest	happily	happiness
kind	kindly	kinder	kindest	kindness	
legal	illegal	legally			
logical	illogical				
nice	nicer	nicest	nicely	niceness	
polite	politely	politeness			
quick	quickly	quicker	quickest	quickness	
secure	securely	insecure	secured		
sick	sicker	sickest	sickly	sickness	
slow	slowly	slower	slowest	slowness	
tidy	tidier	tidily	tidiest	tidiness	untidy

Note: There is also *-ish* in the mix. This suffix can be used creatively with many of the base words to make new somewhat unconventional words. Adding *-ish* tends to have a lessening effect: *slow-ish* means sort of slow and *nice-ish* is not really nice.

7. Ask them to work together to make sentences using the words they created in the cut-out word parts activity. The theme can be, "I love weekends" with "On weekend mornings..." as the beginning of the sentences.