

I hate Mondays!

Read the following sentences. Can you separate the underlined words into parts? Explain the parts using French. Every sentence begins with “On Monday mornings,”

Example: On Monday mornings, I dislike waking up. *dislike = dis + like*
dis = ‘not’ in English and ‘dé’ or ‘dés’ in French. like = ‘aimer’
On Monday mornings,

1. it is smarter to pretend to be sick.
smarter = smart + er, *er* = comparative adjective marker in English
French uses *plus*, smart = *intelligent* in French, smarter = *plus intelligent*
2. I pretend I am unable to get out of bed.
unable = un + able, *un* = not or negative in English. It is the most frequent negating prefix in English.
un = in in French, English *able* = French *capable* (English *unable* = French *incapable*)
3. I hope my mom thinks my sickness is real.
sickness = sick + ness, sick = French *malade*, English *ness* = a noun-maker like *ie* in French. *Sick/sickness* is like French *malade/maladie*.
4. eating breakfast is impossible. I’m so sick.
eating = eat + ing, *eat* = French *manger*, *ing* = a noun-maker. In French the infinitive verb can be a noun as in, “Manger est impossible.”
There is another use of *ing* that students may know: it is used in forming continuous verbs as in, “She is eating her lunch.”
5. looking sadly at my mom never works.
sadly = sad + ly, sad = French *triste*, English *ly* = an adverb-maker like *ment* in French. *Sad/sadly* is like French *triste/tristement*.
6. I am forced to get up.
forced = force + ed, force = French *obliger*, *forcer*, *ed* = verb ending used with *be* (participle), like *é* in French *être obligé*, *forcé*
There is another use of *ed* that students may know: it is used in forming the past tense as in, “Mom forced me to get out of bed.
7. I am not allowed to watch television before school.
television = tele + vision, English *tele* = far, distant = French *télé*,
English *television*, *telephone*, *telecommunication* and French *television*, *téléphone*, *télécommunication* use this Greek prefix for things that involve distance.

8. even the prettiest girls look ugly.

Prettiest = Pretty + est, English *est* = superlative adjective marker. French uses *le plus*. English *pretty* = French *joli*. Like French, the English superlative uses *the*: the prettiest girls = *les plus jolies filles*.

9. people are always more unfriendly.

unfriendly = un + friendly, un = not (as in #2 above). English *friendly* = French *amical*. (English *unfriendly* = French *inimical*). To avoid confusion with #5, ignore the *ly* ending in *unfriendly*; it is not an adverb marker in this word.

10. everything is uncool!

This one is a joke word. People add *un* to make their own new negative words sometimes.