Word Formation

In a sentence or text you have to change the form of a word, e.g. from a noun to an adjective, or from a verb to a noun. For example:

The __singer___ was very nervous. (sing)

You have to complete the sentence with the person noun (*singer*). You change the verb (*sing*) into the person noun (*singer*).

- Look at the word you have to change. Which words do you know that are in the same word family?

- The beginning of the word is often the same and the end of the word changes.

- What form is the new word? A verb? A noun? An adjective? An adverb?

- Nouns often end: *-ment (treatment), -ion (celebration), -ness (politeness), -ity (prosperity).*

- People nouns often end: *-er (singer), -or (actor), -ist (pianist), -ian (musician).*

- Adjectives often end: -**able** *(notable),* -**ible** *(visible),* -**ive** *(decisive),* -**al** *(fictional ,* -**ic** *(ironic),* -**ed** *(tired),* -**ing** *(tiring).*

- Some verbs end: *-ise (minimise), -ate (relate), -en (broaden).*

- Adverbs often end: *-ly (thoughtfully).*

- Is the new word negative? If so, you may need a prefix, e.g. **un**-(*unhappy*), **im**- (*impolite*), **in**- (*inexperienced*), **dis**- (*dishonest*), etc.

- You may need a suffix that shows a specific action, position or lack of something, e.g. –**age** *(marriage),* -**ship** *(membership),* -**less** *(meaningless)*

Add a prefix from the list to the following words

dis- , il- , im- , in- , mis- , over- , pre- , un- ,

dependent -   _____

like -   _____

mature-   _____

polite -   _____

legal -   _____

understand -   _____

logical -   _____

historic -   _____

approve -   _____

moral -   _____

zip -   _____

crowded -   _____

behave -   _____

hear -   _____

handle -   _____

direct -   _____

agree -   _____

lock-   _____

Use the word in capitals to form a new word that fits into each blank.

Our Changing Way of Life

Change happens _____ (**CONSTANT**) as the last 50 years have proved. Some changes, such as air travel, the Internet and mobile phones, provide ease and _____ (**CONVENIENT**). Others, like access to education, have had a deeper impact.

Nothing has had a bigger influence on our lives than recent changes in education. Fifty years ago, education was considered by some an _____ (**NECESSARY**) luxury. Nowadays, however, education isn't just a privilege for the _____ (**CHOOSE**) few. Young men and women from all areas of life are becoming _____ (**PROFESSION**) and improving their quality of life. This will be _____ (**BENEFIT**) to future generations because a better-educated society is a fairer and more skilled one.

_____ (**IRONY**) , however, the change from rural to urban living that drove people to cities in search of better opportunities has led to several modem-day problems. City dwellers have become less _____ (**HEALTH**). They no longer eat fresh farm food, and instead, prefer ready meals and fast food. Urban _____ (**RESIDE**) no longer exercise by working the land. They use their cars instead of walking.

Even though we are so _____ (**TECHNOLOGY**) advanced, we are also _____ (**FOOL**). We destroy our forests, build more cars and roads, and eat rubbish. _____ (**ENVIRONMENT**) will all tell you that the future looks bleak. More change is on the way and, unless we change the way we think, the next fifty years will be very difficult.