



Unit 10

Word Classification

Pretest

Circle the best answer.

1. Many people prefer vinegar to commercial window cleaners because it is safe and (economic) (economical).
2. Grace Kelly's (entry) (enter) into the world of acting began with a cigarette commercial.
3. High taxes placed on (importationed) (imported) goods by the British sparked the American Revolution.
4. The cellist Pablo Casals is one of the most famous (musicals) (musicians) of all time.
5. A (delayance) (delay) in production can mean the loss of millions of dollars to a company.
6. Baseball bats made for (professional) (profession) use are finely crafted.
7. The (documental) (documentary) film *Hoop Dreams* is about two young basketball players who aspire to become professionals.
8. In most American cities police can fine apartment dwellers who cause a (disturb) (disturbance).
9. Mystery books sometimes contain the character of an (aristocratic) (aristocratical) elderly woman who likes solving murders.
10. The U.S. Constitution guarantees (equalness) (equality) under the law.

Explanation

Parts of Speech

In English, words are classified into parts of speech such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. The word *function* is classified as both a verb and a noun.

Few cars made today *function* on electricity. (verb)

The *function* of the president is spelled out in the U.S. Constitution. (noun)

The adjective *functional* and adverb *functionally* are derivations of *function*.

A space heater is *functional* in that it heats up only a portion of an area. (adjective)

Cars can now be *functionally* built to provide space as well as save on gas. (adverb)

As pointed out in unit 6, it is generally incorrect to use an adverb in place of an adjective and vice versa. Likewise, nouns and adjectives in English cannot usually be interchanged. The following sentences illustrate the incorrect use of the noun *jealousy* and the adjective *wealthy*.

In the opera, Carmen is killed by her ^{jealous}~~jealousy~~ lover. (adjective)

Winnings from a lottery ticket have brought people ^{wealth}~~wealthy~~ overnight. (noun)

Nouns, however, can function as adjectives in English, as in *steel manufacturing* or *blackboard erasers*.

It usually is not possible to use a noun in place of a verb, unless, as with *function*, the word is the same for both parts of speech. In the example below, the noun *decoration* cannot be used in place of the verb *decorate*.

The children ^{decorated}~~decorationed~~ the tree with strings of popcorn. (verb)

Similarly, verbs cannot normally be used as nouns.

In the winter it is cold enough here to see one's ^{breath}~~breathe~~. (noun)

Picasso's contemporaries were astounded at his ^{success}~~succeed~~. (noun)

It is possible to make a list of the parts of speech related to a word. Take *philosophy*, for example.

philosophy (noun) (the discipline)
 philosopher (noun) (scholar of philosophy)
 philosophize (verb)
 philosophical (adjective)
 philosophically (adverb)

Notice that in addition to the noun *philosophy* there is another noun, *philosopher*, which refers to the person whose discipline is *philosophy*. It is incorrect in English to use the name of the discipline to refer to a person who works in that discipline.

Aristotle, an ancient ^{philosopher}~~philosophy~~, was a student of Plato.

Other examples are *architecture/architect*, *chemistry/chemist*, *linguistics/linguist*, *economy/economist*, *poetry/poet*, *science/scientist*.

There are other cases where two nouns may exist in the same word family. Take *vegetation* (noncount) and *vegetable* (count) or *taxation* (noncount) and *tax* (count), for example. These words cannot be interchanged because of their basic difference in meaning. This is also true of some adjectives, such as *economic*, which refers to the economy (*economic indicators*, *economic health*), and *economical*, which means inexpensive or money saving. A dictionary is helpful in understanding differences in the meanings of these words.

Because there are so many ways to form derivations in English, it is sometimes thought that a word exists in English when it really doesn't.

The ^{collapse}~~collapsation~~ of the government happened overnight.

There is no word *collapsation* in English. Both the noun and the verb are *collapse*.

Parallel Structure

In sentences where parallel structure occurs, it is important to use the same parts of speech when possible.

Telephones are *fast*, *convenient*, and *economical*. (adjectives)

Some stage actors can *sing*, *dance*, and *act*. (verbs)

The following are examples where the correct parallel structure was not maintained.

Benjamin Franklin was a scientist, statesman, and ^{writer} ~~wrote~~. (nouns)

Weather in the tropics is often ^{rainy} ~~rain~~, humid, and hot. (adjectives)

Blind people often develop an acute sense of sound, touch, and ^{taste} ~~tasting~~. (nouns)

Notice in the last example that the noun *taste* is chosen over the gerund *tasting*.

Word Classification Lists

It is helpful to keep word classification lists. Here are two example lists. In the first, see if you can fill in the noun derived from the listed verbs. In the second, write down the nouns for each of the adjectives listed.

List 1—Verbs and Nouns

Verbs	Nouns
award	award
begin	beginning
define	
delay	
equip	
establish	
expect	
import	
indicate	
invest	
isolate	
measure	
need	
oppose	
prevent	
prohibit	
purchase	
recognize	
reduce	
request	
resign	
sell	
start	
surprise	
survive	
transform	

List 2—Adjectives and Nouns

Adjectives	Nouns
difficult	difficulty
eager	eagerness
easy	
familiar	
happy	
humid	
jealous	
long	
prevalent	
responsible	
suitable	
traditional	
urgent	
warm	

Practice

Exercise

Study the following sentences. Decide if the italicized portion of the sentence is *correct* (C) or *incorrect* (I). Circle your answer.

1. The weather for tomorrow will be chilly, *clearly*, and windy. C I
2. Montezuma was captured by Hernán Cortés when his soldiers *invasoned* Mexico. C I
3. Benjamin Spock was one of the foremost *authorizations* in the United States on child rearing. C I
4. Tonsillectomy patients are now *hospitalized* for the day and then released. C I
5. Before buying a piece of furniture, measure its width, height, and *deepness*. C I
6. Louise Nevelson was an American *sculpture* especially known for her work in wood. C I
7. Psychologists agree that it is important for children to feel acceptance, *secure*, and love from their parents. C I
8. Hurricanes from the Gulf of Mexico have caused considerable damage to *coastal* cities in Texas. C I
9. The injured teenager was a *foolish* for driving 25 miles over the speed limit. C I
10. The *construct* of shopping centers on the edge of a city may mean a loss of business for downtown merchants. C I
11. Employers agree that they are interested in job applicants who are responsible, *confidence*, and hardworking. C I
12. *Well-operationed* factories tend to have strong manager-employee relations. C I
13. A number of schools specialize in theater, *dancing*, music, and art. C I
14. Managers look for *dependableness* when interviewing prospective employees. C I
15. George Washington has been described as being *persistence*. C I

Final Test

Circle the italicized portion of the sentence that is *incorrect*.

1. Passports *issued* to Americans may have travel *restricts* due to *political unrest* in certain parts of the world.
2. Food, *clothing*, and shelter are *considered* the *basic necessitates*.
3. Unmanned rocket ships sent to outer space can *effectively communicate* with *scientifics* on Earth by means of complex *computerized* equipment.
4. Every year football teams *conduct extensive searchings* for promising new *athletes*.
5. Some Americans think a *national committee* should be formed to discuss *alternations* to existing mass transit *systems*.
6. *Favorite condiments* used by the average American *cook* are mustard, ketchup, *salty*, and pepper.

7. Couples celebrate their golden wedding anniversary when they have been marriage fifty years.
8. Many prominent politicians have received threatenings on their lives.
9. Going from an air-condition room to a natural environment can cause respiratory illness.
10. Sparkling cherry cider, a popular nonalcoholic drink at celebrations, is bubbly, lightly, and flavorful.



Review Test

Test 1

Circle the italicized portion of the sentence that is *incorrect*.

1. Ansel Adams is one of the *most skillful nature photographers* the United States has *never* produced.
2. Many *amateur athletics participate* in *marathons*, which are twenty-six miles long.
3. Millions of people make cash *contributes* or work as *volunteers* for their favorite *charities* or nonprofit *institutions*.
4. *Advertisements claim* that contact lenses made of *soft* plastic are *safety*, comfortable, and easy to use.
5. The *simpleness* of a coat *can enhance* its *elegance*.
6. Mother birds *jealously protection* their *young* by attacking animals within close *proximity* to the nest.

Test 2

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. "These new trains are fantastic!"
"They're _____."
a. so quick
b. such quickly
c. so quickly
d. so much quick
2. "Would you like some coffee?"
"Thanks. _____ hot weather really makes me sleepy."
a. Such
b. So
c. Such a
d. A very
3. "The dance was fun."
"But there were _____ there."
a. so many peoples
b. such much people
c. so a lot of people
d. so many people

4. "Main Market is a nice place."

"They have _____ we recommend it to all our friends."

- a. such good food that
- b. such a good food that
- c. so good food that
- d. such as good food that

Review Test