

Vocabulary Power

Lesson 14 Suffixes That Form Nouns

A suffix is a word ending that can be added to a word or root. Adding a suffix modifies the meaning of the word and also changes the word's part of speech. For example, the suffixes *-ty (-ity)* and *-ation* both mean "state, condition, or quality." Adding these suffixes changes the form of the word to a noun. For example the word *sincerity* (*sincere + ity*) means "the quality of being sincere" and *preservation* (*preserve + ation*) means "the state of being preserved."

Word List			
laceration	obfuscation	procrastination	propensity
legibility	paucity	proliferation	viability
levitation	piety		

EXERCISE A Usage

Use the meaning of the suffix and the information given about the base word or root to come up with a possible meaning for each word. Then, look up the word in a dictionary and write its definition.

- Pious* means "religious." **Piety** might mean _____
Dictionary definition _____
- Legible* means "readable." **Legibility** might mean _____
Dictionary definition _____
- Viable* means "capable of life" or "success." **Viability** might mean _____
Dictionary definition _____
- The root *pauc* means "little" or "few." **Paucity** might mean _____
Dictionary definition _____
- The root *propend* means "to lean." **Propensity** might mean _____
Dictionary definition _____
- Procrastinate* means "to delay." **Procrastination** might mean _____
Dictionary definition _____
- Proliferate* means "to multiply." **Proliferation** might mean _____
Dictionary definition _____
- Levitate* means "to rise" or "float in the air." **Levitation** might mean _____
Dictionary definition _____
- Lacerate* means "to tear roughly." **Laceration** might mean _____
Dictionary definition _____
- Obfuscate* means "to confuse." **Obfuscation** might mean _____
Dictionary definition _____

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Vocabulary Power *continued*

EXERCISE B Sentence Completion

Write the vocabulary word that correctly completes each sentence.

1. When food was rationed during the war, there was a(n) _____ of luxuries such as sugar and coffee.
2. The audience was startled when the singer rose into the air, but I could see that this false _____ was accomplished using well-concealed ropes.
3. The _____ of mice in the barn is due to the fact that we gave our cat away.
4. The jagged wound on the soldier's leg was a(n) _____ caused by barbed wire.
5. Because both of the speakers had engaged in _____, we left the debate still confused about the issues.
6. Isaiah has a(n) _____ for interrupting others; I've noticed this both in class and in casual conversation.
7. "The _____ of your homework is very poor," said the teacher.
8. It is difficult to avoid _____ and actually work over the holidays.

EXERCISE C Clues Matching

Write the vocabulary word that fits each clue.

1. Nuns have plenty of this. _____
2. A plan that falls flat would not have this. _____
3. The handwriting of many teachers has this quality. _____
4. Some students behind in their school work have this habit. _____
5. You could get one of these playing by broken glass. _____
6. An explanation by a parent that confuses you. _____
7. A magician floating an assistant over the audience. _____
8. When there is an overabundance of books in a library. _____