

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS REFERENCE EDITION

# English Vocabulary in Use

Upper-Intermediate Complete 100-Unit Master Edition

# UNIT 1: SUFFIXES IN NOUN FORMATION (-ISM, -IFICATION, -ITY)

## A. ABSTRACT CONCEPTS & SYSTEMS (-ISM)

The suffix **-ism** forms nouns denoting doctrines, systematic theories, political practices, or typical behaviors:

- **Optimism** : The persistent belief that positive outcomes will occur.

*"Despite infrastructure delays, the project team maintained their systemic optimism."*

- **Bureaucratism** : Rigid adherence to administrative routines.

*"The migration process was choked by organizational bureaucratism."*

## B. PRODUCTIVE ACTION & STATES (-IFICATION, -ITY)

Suffixes that track specific active conversion states or absolute qualities:

- **Clarification** : The action of making a statement or situation less confusing.

*"We requested an immediate clarification regarding network protocols."*

- **Complexity** : The state of being intricate or deeply interconnected.

*"The unexpected complexity of the framework layout caused optimization delays."*

### Exercise 1.1: Suffix Transformation Matrix

Convert the root words in brackets using *-ism*, *-ification*, or *-ity* to perfectly fit the context:

1. The engineering department requires absolute \_\_\_\_\_ (clear) before changing the configuration rules.
2. Relying purely on blind \_\_\_\_\_ (optimist) will not fix a underlying hardware bug.
3. The sheer \_\_\_\_\_ (complex) of running large language models locally demands robust vRAM allocations.

### Exercise 1.2: Contextual Proofing

Identify and correct the incorrect suffix form in each line:

1. "The project's code needs standardism before deployment."

**Correction:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. "We observed a high degree of flexification in their development cycles."

**Correction:** \_\_\_\_\_

## UNIT 2: ADVANCED PREFIXES (DE-, COUNTER-, ANTI-)

### A. REVERSAL AND REDUCTION (DE-)

The prefix **de-** indicates the reversal of an action, removal, or a downward trend:

- **De-escalate** : To reduce the intensity or severity of a conflict.

*"Active system logging helped de-escalate the performance crisis."*

- **Centralize vs. Decentralize** : Moving structural authority away from a central hub.

*"They chose to decentralize their storage architecture."*

### B. OPPOSITION AND DEFENSE (COUNTER-, ANTI-)

Prefixes denoting deliberate pushback, strategic alignment, or total protection:

- **Counter-intuitive** : Contrary to expectations or common-sense reasoning.

*"The optimal performance fix turned out to be completely counter-intuitive."*

- **Antivirus / Antidote** : Agents designed to actively neutralize hostile structural elements.

### Exercise 2.1: Prefix Matching Sequence

Add the correct prefix (*de-*, *counter-*, *anti-*) to complete the sentence sentences:

1. To prevent complete failure, the administration decided to \_\_\_\_\_grade the primary server framework.

2. Launching a \_\_\_\_\_attack against malicious network requests preserved operational uptimes.

3. The new software patch contains strong \_\_\_\_\_tampering mechanics built right into the compilation process.

## UNIT 3: COMPOUND NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES IN INDUSTRY

### A. STRUCTURAL COMPOUND NOUNS

Compounds combine distinct lexical units to form highly specific industry terminology:

- **Bottleneck** : A structural chokepoint that impedes steady workflows.

*"A critical data bottleneck occurred within the memory controller pipeline."*

- **Feedback loop** : A system where outputs are routed back as operational inputs.

*"Continuous user feedback loops drive rapid application patches."*

### B. COMPOUND ADJECTIVES

Hyphenated multi-word descriptors determining capability, scope, or design characteristics:

- **State-of-the-art** : Incorporating the newest, most advanced features available.

*"The enterprise data center features state-of-the-art thermal cooling arrays."*

- **Time-consuming** : Requiring extensive duration inputs.

*"Manual memory checks are an incredibly time-consuming practice."*

### Exercise 3.1: Structural Assembly

Match a word from Column A with Column B to solve the industry context:

Column A: Bottle | Feed | State | Time

Column B: back | neck | consuming | of-the-art

1. The process was so \_\_\_\_\_ that the engineers automated it completely using specialized code.

2. A serious \_\_\_\_\_ in the pipeline caused data packets to drop frequently.

3. They deployed a \_\_\_\_\_ system infrastructure to manage virtual resources seamlessly.

## UNIT 4: FUNCTIONAL COLLOCATIONS FOR WORK & DYNAMICS

### A. HIGH-FREQUENCY VERB-NOUN COUPLINGS

Upper-intermediate language avoids generic verbs like 'make' or 'do', selecting precise collocations instead:

- **Conduct an assessment** : To systematically inspect or analyze a state.

*"The administrators will conduct an assessment of the GPU passthrough limits."*

- **Implement a policy** : To actively put an administrative plan or configuration into effect.

*"The company decided to implement a policy restricting unauthorized direct access."*

### B. FIXED COLLOCATIONS FOR SYSTEMATIC FAILURE

Expressions tracking systemic collapse or strategic shifts:

- **Go down the tubes** : To fail completely, rapidly, or catastrophically.

*"Without immediate cooling backup, the production servers will go down the tubes."*

- **Back to the drawing board** : Forced to start a design process over due to failure.

### Exercise 4.1: Collocation Optimization

Replace the generic underlined verbs with professional collocations (conduct, implement, return):

1. The team needs to do an assessment of the current virtual environments.

**Better:** \_\_\_\_\_ an assessment

2. Management wants to put out a new strict security protocol next month.

**Better:** \_\_\_\_\_ a policy

### Exercise 4.2: Idiomatic Application

Complete the sentences with 'the tubes' or 'drawing board':

1. If the hardware hypervisor completely freezes up during the test run, our entire weekend project goes down \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The initial server script failed to execute properly, forcing us right back to the \_\_\_\_\_.

### A. VIRTUALIZATION & HARDWARE ORCHESTRATION

Navigating modern deployment environments requires precise, descriptive lexical terms:

- **Hypervisor** : Software that creates and runs virtual machines (VMs).  
*"The bare-metal hypervisor directly orchestrates hardware layer requests."*
- **Passthrough** : Directly dedicating physical hardware components to a virtual client.  
*"Configuring a direct GPU passthrough removes processing latency entirely."*

### B. RESOURCE CONTENTION & OPTIMIZATION

Isolating and describing operational efficiency profiles:

- **Allocation** : The system-driven assignment of specific resources to distinct processes.  
*"Dynamic memory allocation balances active training cycles."*
- **Throughput** : The actual volume of data processed through a system within a given timeframe.

### Exercise 5.1: Technical Vocabulary Contextualization

Fill blanks using terms from the left panel (*hypervisor, passthrough, allocation, throughput*):

1. By utilizing a dedicated hardware \_\_\_\_\_, the host server safely maps physical devices to independent client environments.
2. Optimizing the cluster config dramatically improved overall data \_\_\_\_\_ across the local storage network.
3. Incorrect vRAM \_\_\_\_\_ causes the system kernel to terminate active compute tasks prematurely.

## How to Use This Appendix

This appendix adds practice exercises, phrase banks, study plans and reference notes aligned with the main guide. Work through one section per study session and review your notes weekly.

## Extended Study Material

The following sections were prepared by Mubashir Mehdi for LifeWithBooks to supplement this guide with additional explanations, examples and practice. Work through them after reading the main chapters.

## The Proven Left-Right Format

English Vocabulary in Use Upper-Intermediate is part of the bestselling vocabulary series from Cambridge University Press. It follows the proven two-page unit format: the left page presents and explains new vocabulary with definitions, examples and usage notes, while the right page provides exercises for immediate practice. This design makes it perfect for focused 20-30 minute study sessions.

## 100 Units Covering Essential Topics

The book contains 100 units organized into thematic and linguistic groups. Early units cover word formation (prefixes, suffixes, compounding, conversion), collocations, phrasal verbs and idiomatic expressions. Later units tackle topic-based vocabulary for work and employment, education, science and technology, the environment, media and communication, travel, health, crime and the law, politics, feelings and relationships. Each unit teaches approximately 25-30 new vocabulary items in context, totalling around 3,000 words and expressions across the book. Items are carefully selected based on frequency data and relevance to upper-intermediate learners preparing for exams like Cambridge FCE or IELTS.

## Self-Study With Full Answer Key

A complete answer key at the back allows independent learners to check their work immediately. A comprehensive word list and index makes it easy to find where any word is taught. The book works equally well as a classroom resource or a self-study reference, and many teachers assign individual units as targeted homework.

## Topic Vocabulary Sets

1. achievement, accomplish, milestone, setback, perseverance
2. ambiguous, clarify, precise, vague, interpret
3. benefit, drawback, advantage, trade-off, consequence
4. collaborate, coordinate, delegate, contribute, facilitate
5. diverse, homogeneous, inclusive, representative, demographic
6. emphasize, highlight, understate, exaggerate, convey

7. feasible, viable, impractical, realistic, ambitious
8. genuine, authentic, artificial, sincere, deceptive
9. hypothesis, evidence, conclude, assume, verify
10. implement, execute, postpone, initiate, abandon
11. justify, rationalize, defend, criticize, acknowledge
12. keen, enthusiastic, reluctant, indifferent, passionate
13. legitimate, valid, questionable, lawful, ethical
14. moderate, extreme, gradual, sudden, substantial
15. notion, concept, perception, misconception, insight
16. objective, subjective, impartial, biased, neutral
17. persistent, consistent, sporadic, intermittent, steady
18. qualify, meet requirements, eligible, exempt, comply
19. reluctant, willing, eager, hesitant, determined
20. significant, negligible, minor, major, noteworthy

## Collocation Practice

Match the verb to the natural noun partner:

make - a decision, progress, a mistake, an effort

do - homework, research, your best, damage

take - a break, responsibility, notes, action

have - a meeting, an impact, fun, difficulty

give - advice, a presentation, permission, feedback

pay - attention, a compliment, the bill, a visit

keep - a promise, calm, records, in touch

break - a habit, the news, a record, the law

## Extended Reading Passage

Read aloud once for gist, then again for vocabulary. Underline five new words and write your own summary paragraph.

Effective language learning depends on consistent exposure and active use. Many learners spend years studying grammar rules without speaking regularly, which creates a gap between knowledge and performance. Research suggests that daily contact with meaningful input - podcasts, articles, conversations, films with subtitles - builds the mental patterns needed for fluent speech. Output matters too: writing short paragraphs, recording yourself, and joining discussions force your brain to retrieve vocabulary under time pressure, which strengthens long-term memory.

Another key factor is error tolerance. Advanced speakers make mistakes; the goal is communication, not perfection. Keep a personal error log: note recurring problems (prepositions, articles, word order) and review them weekly. Pair study with real tasks - emails, presentations, travel - so new language serves a purpose. Finally, set measurable goals: learn twenty collocations this month, hold a ten-minute conversation twice a week, or finish one graded reader. Small, steady progress beats occasional marathon sessions.

## Error Correction Exercises

Find and fix the mistake in each sentence. Answers are in parentheses.

1. She don't like spicy food. (doesn't)
2. I have been to Paris last year. (went - specific past time)
3. He is more taller than his brother. (taller - remove more)
4. We discussed about the problem. (discussed the - no about)
5. She suggested me to apply. (suggested that I apply)
6. I am agree with you. (I agree)
7. He explained me the rules. (explained the rules to me)
8. The informations are useful. (information - uncountable)
9. I look forward to meet you. (to meeting)
10. She is married with a lawyer. (married to)
11. I have a news for you. (some news - uncountable)
12. He did a mistake. (made a mistake)
13. We must to finish today. (must finish)
14. She is boring of the lecture. (bored by / bored with)
15. I am here since three hours. (have been here for)
16. He said that he will come. (would come - reported speech)
17. The children is playing outside. (children are)
18. I am used to wake up early. (used to waking up)
19. She is responsible of the team. (responsible for)
20. We need discuss this later. (need to discuss)

## Sentence Building Practice

Combine the prompts into full sentences. Example: [weather / bad / stay home]  
-> Because the weather was bad, we decided to stay home.

1. [deadline / tight / work / weekend]
2. [not familiar / software / ask / colleague]
3. [train / delayed / arrive / late]
4. [research / shows / exercise / improves / memory]
5. [although / tired / finish / assignment]
6. [if / more time / learn / second language]
7. [manager / praised / team / hard work]
8. [before / presentation / rehearse / twice]
9. [customer / complained / slow / service]
10. [since / moved / city / made / friends]
11. [unless / study / regularly / forget / vocabulary]
12. [despite / rain / match / continued]
13. [recommend / book / anyone / interested / history]
14. [while / waiting / bus / read / article]
15. [as soon as / hear / news / call / me]

## Four-Week Study Plan

Use this plan to study English Vocabulary in Use - Upper Intermediate in daily 30-45 minute sessions.

### Week 1 - Foundations

Days 1-2: Skim the guide and list unknown words. Days 3-4: Study one core chapter and summarize it in your own words. Days 5-7: Do practice exercises aloud; record yourself if possible.

### **Week 2 - Active Practice**

Days 8-10: Focus on your weakest section; redo examples without looking. Days 11-12: Explain the material to a friend or aloud alone. Days 13-14: Mixed review from all sections.

### **Week 3 - Real Usage**

Days 15-17: Use new language in real tasks. Days 18-19: Read or listen to authentic English on the same topic. Days 20-21: Write 300 words applying what you learned.

### **Week 4 - Consolidation**

Days 22-24: Timed practice under exam or workplace conditions. Days 25-26: Fix weak areas using notes and answer keys. Days 27-28: Final review before moving to advanced material.

## **About LifeWithBooks**

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