

Cambridge Learner's Dictionary



Teacher's notes

Aims: to help students use the dictionary to understand connections between words and build their vocabulary

Skill: using the Cambridge Learner's Electronic Dictionary for independent language development

Level: Pre-intermediate and Intermediate

Introduction (10 minutes)

- Ask students if they know any words that end in 'ology' and write them up on the board. If they are having problems, suggest 'biology', 'technology' and 'ecology'.
- Ask them if they can explain the meanings of these words or give their equivalents in the students' first language.
- Ask if they can see any connection between the words – these words generally refer to the study of things e.g. geology is the study of rocks and soil and the physical structure of the Earth.
- If students are not familiar with the word "suffix", explain that "ology" is a suffix, and give one or two other examples; for example, "less" or "able".
- If you have time, repeat this procedure with a word that has a prefix; for example, "unhappy".
- Explain that the Cambridge Learner's Electronic Dictionary can help students build their vocabulary and see connections between these kinds of words.
- If possible have the dictionary on screen or on a computer in class. Show the students how they can find words with the same prefix or suffix.

How to find prefixes and suffixes

1. Enter the prefix followed by an asterisk (*) or the suffix with an asterisk in front of it in the *search box*; for example, *ology or anti*. Then click *find*.
2. A list of words with similar beginnings or endings will appear below.
3. Click on the word and look on the right to check its meaning.

Beginnings and endings

2. Class activity (15 minutes)

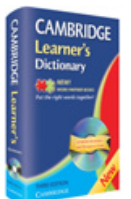
- Hand out the Class activity worksheet. If possible, display the Cambridge Learner's Electronic Dictionary on screen or on a computer in class.
- Explain to the students how they can search for words with specific prefixes and suffixes by using the asterisk in the search query.
- Ask the class to work in pairs and to complete the tables in the worksheet. When they have finished, ask them to present the words to the rest of the class, explaining their meaning and giving an equivalent from their first language.

3. Homework (15 minutes)

- For homework hand out the Student research worksheets and assign the students some prefixes or suffixes to research. If you can't think of any, consider using *im** or **ful*.
- Ask students to do this activity on their own using the Cambridge Learner's Electronic Dictionary and to be ready to present some of their findings to the rest of the class next lesson.
- Ensure you allocate time next lesson for students to feed back on words they have researched.
- Encourage students to use the table when researching new words with prefixes or suffixes, especially when studying independently.

TIPS

- Using an asterisk as a substitute for missing letters can be very useful. If a student catches only half a word, he/she can type the half of the word into the *search box* and use the asterisk for the letters that were not clear. For example, *enor** can be used to find *enormous*.



Class activity worksheet

Beginnings and endings

- Write the sample words and meanings for the suffixes and prefixes **ology*, **able* and *un** into the tables below.

Table 1

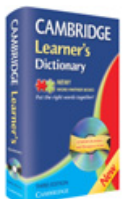
Suffix or Prefix: <i>*ology</i>	Related meaning: A subject that is studied at school, college or university
Sample words	Examples and meanings
biology	The study of living things

Table 2

Suffix or Prefix: <i>*able</i>	Related meaning:
Sample words	Examples and meanings

Table 3

Suffix or Prefix: <i>un*</i>	Related meaning:
Sample words	Examples and meanings



Student research worksheet

Beginnings and endings

- Your teacher will give you some prefixes or suffixes to research. Use the Cambridge Learner's Electronic Dictionary to find words that use the prefixes or suffixes.
- You can do this at home or in the school computer lab if you have one.
- Use a copy of the Research table to record your research.
- Pick some words from your search that you think are useful and/or interesting and that you would like to present to the class.

Table 1

Suffixes or Prefixes:	Related meanings:
Sample words	Examples and meanings

TIPS

- You can use the asterix (*) to find words that use the same prefix or suffix.
- Enter the prefix followed by an asterix (*) or the suffix with an asterix in front of it in the *search box*; for example, **ology* or *anti**. Then click *find* and a list of words with similar beginnings or endings will appear below.
- Using an asterix as a substitute for missing letters can be very useful. If you hear only half a word, you can type half of the word you know into the *search box* and use the asterix for the letters that were not clear. For example, *enor** can be used to find *enormous*.

