

TEACHER'S NOTES

**debaptism**

www.macmillandictionary.com

**Overview:** Suggestions for using the Macmillan Dictionary *BuzzWord* article on *debaptism* and the associated worksheets.

**Total time for worksheet activities:** 30 minutes

**Suggested level:** Intermediate and above

1. If you intend to use the worksheets in class, go to the *BuzzWord* article at the web address given at the beginning of the worksheet and print off a copy of the article. Make a copy of the worksheet and the *BuzzWord* article for each student.
2. If the members of your class all have computer access, ask them to open the worksheet before they go to the *Buzzword* article link. Make sure they do not scroll down to the Key until they have completed each exercise. You might find it helpful not to print a copy of the Key for each student but to check the answers as a class.
3. Ask students to read through the whole *BuzzWord* article carefully.
4. Tell students to look at the Background section at the end of the article. They should notice that the *BuzzWord* is formed by adding the prefix *de-*. Point out/remind them that adding prefixes to existing words is a common way to produce new words, and that the meaning of an unknown word can sometimes be deduced by recognizing and understanding the meaning of an affix (= prefix/suffix). Ask students what prefixes they know. Highlight some of the more common ones such as *un-*, *dis-* and *re-*, and contrast these with prefixes that have more lexical content such as *eco-*, *bio-*, etc.
5. Ask students to read through the Find the information questions first then work in pairs and find the answers to these questions. Check the answers as a class.
6. For Exercise 2, ask the students to complete the exercise and then discuss their answers with a partner. If necessary, give the answer by explaining that prefixes like *de-* are attached to words with independent meaning.
7. After completing Exercises 3 and 4, remind students that prefixes *il-*, *im-*, *in-* and *ir-* all fulfil the same function of meaning 'not' or 'opposite', and that the choice of which one to use depends on the first letter of the word it is going to combine with, i.e. *il* before *l* (*illegal*), *ir* before *r* (*irregular*), *im* before *b*, *m* or *p* (*impossible*) and *in* before other consonants/vowels (*inactive*, *incomplete*, *insufficient*).
8. The Macmillan Dictionary will be needed when doing Exercise 5. Ask the students to compare their answers with a partner and then check the answers with the whole class.

WORKSHEET

**debaptism**

www.macmillandictionary.com

Go to the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article at:

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/debaptism.html>

**1 Find the information**

Look in the *BuzzWord* article on *debaptism* and answer these questions.

1. What is the meaning of prefix *de-*?
2. Three other examples of words using prefix *de-* are mentioned. What are these?
3. The second paragraph highlights a word containing a prefix which is sometimes used in a similar way to *de-*. What is this prefix?
4. Find two verbs beginning with *r-* which could be used to complete the following sentence:  
*Debaptism is an act in which someone decides to \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ their faith.*
5. *Debaptism* has a corresponding verb with two spelling variants. Which of the variants can be used in British English and which in American English?

**2 Identifying prefixes**

The following verbs all begin with *de-*. Decide which ones are formed by adding the prefix *de-*, and which are not. Explain your answer.

debug

deafen

decorate

defrost

delay

**3 Common prefixes**

Complete the sentences by choosing the correct prefix and attaching it to the correct form of the word in brackets.

de-

dis-

im-

in-

re-

un-

1. Later in life the baptismal ceremony may seem \_\_\_\_\_. [SIGNIFY]
2. Officials argued that something that actually happened could not be \_\_\_\_\_. [DO]
3. They said that it was \_\_\_\_\_ to change because baptism was a matter of public record. [POSSIBILITY]
4. Hunt explained that he \_\_\_\_\_ with the concept of infant baptism. [AGREEMENT]
5. Hunt found that becoming \_\_\_\_\_ was more difficult than expected. [BAPTISM]
6. The National Secular Society would like it to be possible to \_\_\_\_\_ entries in the baptismal roll. [WRITE]

WORKSHEET

**debaptism**

www.macmillandictionary.com

**4 Word building**

Match the prefixes on the left with the correct forms of the words on the right to create six new words. Then use these words to complete the sentences below.

- |        |            |
|--------|------------|
| ir-    | café       |
| cyber- | connect    |
| mis-   | legal      |
| dis-   | regular    |
| eco-   | understand |
| il-    | system     |

- Before you start work, you'll need to \_\_\_\_\_ the water supply.
- Verbs such as *make*, *do* and *take* have an \_\_\_\_\_ past tense.
- Unable to connect to the Internet, I went out to look for a \_\_\_\_\_.
- I'm sorry, that's not what I meant, you must have \_\_\_\_\_.
- Pesticides use harmful chemicals which can damage the \_\_\_\_\_.
- It is \_\_\_\_\_ to export waste which cannot be recycled.

**5 What do they mean?**

Match the prefixes on the left with the meanings on the right. Use the Macmillan Dictionary to find one example of a word containing each prefix.

- |           |   |       |
|-----------|---|-------|
| 1. micro- | a. relating to the environment            | _____ |
| 2. ultra- | b. very small                             | _____ |
| 3. semi-  | c. more than one                          | _____ |
| 4. poly-  | d. relating to computers and the Internet | _____ |
| 5. eco-   | e. relating to living things              | _____ |
| 6. cyber- | f. extremely                              | _____ |
| 7. bio-   | g. no longer                              | _____ |
| 8. ex-    | h. half                                   | _____ |

KEY

**debaptism**

www.macmillandictionary.com



**KEY**

**1 Find the information**

1. 'remove' or 'opposite'
2. decaffeinated, decentralize, deforestation
3. un- (the word is *undone*)
4. reject, renounce
5. debaptize (British and American English), debaptise (British English)

**2 Identifying prefixes**

The words *deafen*, *decorate* and *delay* aren't formed from the prefix *de-*. The words *debug* and *defrost* are. In the latter two cases, you can remove the prefix *de-* and the word still has an independent meaning (in the same sense).

**3 Common prefixes**

1. insignificant
2. undone
3. impossible
4. disagreed
5. debaptised/debaptized
6. rewrite

**4 Word building**

1. disconnect
2. irregular
3. cybercafé
4. misunderstood
5. ecosystem
6. illegal

**5 What do they mean?**

1. b (microchip)
2. f (ultra-modern)
3. h (semi-circle)
4. c (polysemous)
5. a (eco-disaster)
6. d (cybercrime)
7. e (biology)
8. g (ex-boyfriend)