

**First Reading and Use of English Part 3 – Word formation:
Prefixes *mis-* and *dis-*****Teacher's notes and answer key**

Ready for Use of English worksheets focus on particular areas of vocabulary and grammar that may be tested in the Cambridge First examination. They provide extension and/or extra practice of areas covered in the *Ready for First Certificate* Coursebook. They are designed to be used in class or as homework.

Prefixes *mis-* and *dis-***1**

used with *mis-*: trust, use, place, lead, hit, manage, inform, quote

used with *dis-*: trust, believe, place, arm, qualify, agree, continue, infect, like, please, obey, prove

used with both: trust, place (Note: *disused* is often used as an adjective, but not as a verb)

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- a. disqualified
- b. misquoted
- c. disliked
- d. misplaced
- e. displace
- f. mis/distrusted
- g. disprove

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- a. disobedient
- b. disinfectant
- c. misleading
- d. disagreement
- e. misinformation
- f. disqualification
- g. Disarmament

What to expect in the exam

- 1 misunderstanding
- 2 misled
- 3 disagreement
- 4 untrustworthy
- 5 unbelievable
- 6 displace/replace
- 7 pleasing
- 8 likeable



First Reading and Use of English Part 3 – Word formation: Prefixes *mis-* and *dis-*

Prefixes: *mis-* and *dis-*

1 Read the rules and complete the exercise.

We use *mis-* and *dis-* as prefixes in front of some verbs.

The prefix *dis-* gives a verb an opposite meaning (e.g. *disappear*).

The prefix *mis-* means badly (e.g. *misbehave*) or wrongly (e.g. *misunderstand*).

trust	believe	use	place	lead	arm
hit	qualify	manage	agree	continue	infect
like	inform	please	quote	obey	prove

Look at the verbs in the box above.

- Which can have the prefix *mis-* in front of them?

- Which can have the prefix *dis-* in front of them?

- Which can be used with both?

2 Complete the sentences using the verbs with *mis-* or *dis-* from exercise 1. You may need to change the form of the verb.

- Smith was _____ from the race for making two false starts.
- The politician was very angry because the newspaper had _____ what he had said.
- I've always _____ February. It's a horrible, wet, cold month.
- I seem to have _____ my glasses somewhere. Have you seen them?
- Use this device to _____ the gas inside the container.
- The manager _____ most of his staff. He felt that most of them wanted his job.
- It's quite difficult to _____ your theory. There isn't enough evidence to challenge it in any way.

3 Complete the sentences using the verbs with *mis-* or *dis-* from exercise 1. The missing words are adjectives or nouns, so you will need to add suffixes to the verbs.

- The students were very _____. They completely ignored the teacher.
- Could you buy some _____? I need to clean the bathroom.
- The evidence was very _____. It made it seem that he had been at home at the weekend, but in fact he must have been at work.
- There was a very serious _____ between the two business partners which resulted in them going their separate ways.
- This report is full of _____ and lies. I demand that you look into it.
- McMahon's outspoken criticism of the umpire resulted in his _____ from the tennis tournament.
- In the 1980s, the Campaign for Nuclear _____ put a lot of pressure on governments to get rid of their nuclear weapons.



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What to expect in the exam

Part 3 of the Reading and Use of English Paper focuses on word formation. You need to know how to use prefixes and suffixes to form different words from a root word. This is an area of the exam where the use of *mis-* and *dis-* might be checked. Try the example of Part 3 of the exam below. You will need to use *mis-*, *dis-*, *un-* and suffixes to complete the answers.

Part 3

For questions 1–8, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example: (0) *disused*

A powerful start, let down by a simplistic plot

Jenny Hill's new play is set in a **(0)** _____ warehouse in East London. It is about an unfortunate **(1)** _____ between two old friends. Sam thinks his childhood mate, Colin, has **(2)** _____ him by promising him a place in his band, a band which has just been offered a recording contract. The violent **(3)** _____ in the opening scene between the naïve Sam and the totally **(4)** _____ Colin is a powerful piece of theatre. However, much of the rest of the plot is simplistic and at times **(5)** _____. In fact, much of what happens only disproves the theory that Jenny Hill is finally ready to **(6)** _____ Malcolm Kerr as the star of new, naturalistic theatre. In truth, she is promising. But she is not in Kerr's class. One of the most **(7)** _____ aspects of this new play is the return to form of veteran actor, Jack Marr, as Sam's supportive, **(8)** _____ grandfather. And, finally, it is worth mentioning how friendly and helpful the staff of the Royal Theatre are.

USE
UNDERSTAND
LEAD

AGREE
TRUST

BELIEVE
PLACE

PLEASE

LIKE