

## Basic Word Formation Tips

In a sentence or text you have to change the form of a word, e.g. from a noun to an adjective, or from a verb to a noun. For example:

*The \_\_\_\_\_ was very nervous. (**sing**)*

You have to complete the sentence with the person noun (**singer**). You change the verb (**sing**) into the person noun (**singer**).

- Look at the word you have to change. Which words do you know that are in the same word family?
- The beginning of the word is often the same and the end of the word changes.
- What form is the new word? A verb? A noun? An adjective? An adverb?
- Nouns often end: **-ment**, **-ion**, **-ness**, **-ity**.
- People nouns often end: **-er**, **-or**, **-ist**, **-ian**.
- Adjectives often end: **-able**, **-ible**, **-ive**, **-al**, **-ic**, **-ed**, **-ing**.
- Some verbs end: **-ise**, **-ate**, **-en**.
- Adverbs often end: **-ly**.
- Is the new word negative? If so, you may need a prefix, e.g. **un-** (*unhappy*), **im-** (*impolite*), **in-** (*inexperienced*), **dis-** (*dishonest*), etc.