

Introduction to the Word~Max Drills for Skills Series

An understanding of word formation (parts of speech) is one of the most important skills for students. It tests the students ability to use the different forms of English words. In order to complete the exercises accurately, a good knowledge of the functions and usage of the different parts of speech is very important. The best way to improve skill is to practice.

Instructions for parents:

1. Print off the handy hints sheets and the blank exercises.
2. Check the answers against the answer key.
3. Refer back to the handy hints sheets to understand why errors have been made.

Strategies for tackling word formation exercises.

1. When you learn a new word, learn all forms of it and the usage.

Word	Part of speech	Usage example
sense	noun	I sense that you are angry.
sense	verb	Humans have five senses.
sensory	adjective	Animals have very well-developed sensory skills.
sensitive	adjective	Polly has sensitive skin.
sensitively	adverb	The social worker listened sensitively to the student's problems.
sensation	noun	David lost all sensation in his leg after the accident.
sensationalise	verb	The media often sensationalises news to make it sound more interesting.
sensational	adjective	The book was sensational.
sensationally	adverb	A man sensationally avoided the death penalty by being proven innocent at the last moment.
sensor	noun	Infrared doors which have sensors that detect movement and open automatically.

Word Formation (Parts of Speech) Book 2

2. Always read the whole sentence containing the blank from the capital letter to the full stop.
3. Look for clues in the sentence that show which part of speech is needed.
4. Check spelling.
5. Check agreement for nouns and verbs.

Parts of Speech - Word Formation Handy Hints

Verbs	
Function:	Describe actions, link ideas
Examples:	is/am/are, jumped, ate, assured, angered
Clues:	A <i>noun</i> before or after the blank, a <i>verb</i> in the sentence.
Grammar reminders:	What tense do you need? Check the subject verb agreement (The food are > is delicious).
Nouns	
Function:	Name people, places, things, animals, abstract ideas
Examples:	John, jet office, happiness, movement
Clues:	the word <i>a/an</i> , <i>the</i> before, a <i>verb</i> after the blank
Grammar reminders:	Do you need the plural form?
Adjectives	
Function:	Tell us more about nouns
Examples:	angry, surprised, stolen, moving
Clues:	a <i>noun</i> after the blank or a noun and a linking verb (be) before the noun.
Grammar reminders:	Do you need the 'ed' form or the 'ing' form? E.g. The situation was worried > worrying.

Adverbs

Function:	Tell us more about verbs or adjectives (where, when, how)
Examples:	legendarily, appropriately, very, noisily, happily, yesterday, there
Clues:	an adjective after the blank, a verb before the blank
Grammar reminders:	Have you spelt the word correctly?

Prepositions

Function:	Link verbs, nouns and adjectives with nouns, show position, phrasal verbs
Examples:	in, on, under, like, regarding, despite
Clues:	part of a phrasal <i>verb</i> , a <i>noun</i> after the blank
Grammar reminders:	Think about whether there is movement (e.g. <i>in</i> vs. <i>into</i>)

Conjunctions/Connectives

Function:	Link ideas, clauses and sentences
Examples:	and, but, because, therefore
Clues:	two verbs in a sentence, the blank is the first word of the sentence, punctuation (look for commas), sense
Grammar reminders:	Make sure the sentence makes sense.

Pronouns

Function:	Used in place of nouns or noun phrases
Examples:	he, she, they, him, her, this, that, these, which, who
Clues:	Repeated ideas, relative clauses
Grammar reminders:	Do you need the subject form (he) or the object form (him)?

Exercise 7

Complete the following text using the correct form of the root words in brackets.

Tiger Expectations

How many students have buckled or come close to it _____ (try) to live up to parents' expectations? I think that most of them would answer with a resounding, "YES!" The term 'Tiger Mums' has been recently coined and gained lots of _____ (attend).

_____ (academic), tiger mums expect students to rank no. 1. In sports, tiger mums expect students to win medals and trophies. For musical talent, tiger mums expect students to master both the piano and the violin.

In fact, high expectations are like "N + 1". The ever changing _____ (vary), "N", added to "one". "N" represents what students can achieve, and the extra "+1" is what _____ (demand parents impose over and above this.

Amy Chua's famous book, *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*, captures the idea behind these high expectations _____ (perfect). Take a quote from the book: "Every day that you don't practice is a day you're getting worse."

What this _____ bottles up to is constantly being pushed. _____ (regret), there are some tiger mums who go to such extremes that it leads to _____ (fail) instead of success.

But are high expectations really that bad? Is there method in this madness? Sometimes they drive students to strive. It's easy to take the easy way but a little push can go a long way when it comes to _____ (motivate) students and preventing _____ (lazy) which is built into our natures.

This is food for _____ (think) because one day, most teens will themselves become parents. Whether or not they will become tiger parents remains to be seen.

Exercise 7 - answers

Complete the following text using the correct form of the root words in brackets.

Tiger Expectations

How many students have buckled or come close to it **trying** (try) to live up to parents' expectations? I think that most of them would answer with a resounding, "YES!" The term 'Tiger Mums' has been recently coined and gained lots of **attention** (attend).

Academically (academic), tiger mums expect students to rank No. 1. In sports, tiger mums expect students to win medals and trophies. For musical talent, tiger mums expect students to master both the piano and the violin.

In fact, high expectations are like "N + 1". The ever-changing **variable** (vary), "N", added to "one". "N" represents what students can achieve, and the extra "+1" is what **demanding** (demand) parents impose over and above this.

Amy Chua's famous book, *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*, captures the idea behind these high expectations **perfectly** (perfect). Take a quote from the book: "Every day that you don't practice is a day you're getting worse."

What this all bottles down to is constantly being pushed. **Regrettably** (regret), there are some tiger mums who go to such extremes that it leads to **failure** (fail) instead of success.

But are high expectations really that bad? Is there method in this madness? Sometimes they drive students to strive. It's easy to take the easy way but a little push can go a long way when it comes to **motivating** (motivate) students and preventing **laziness** (lazy) which is built into our natures.

This is food for **thought** (think) because one day, most teens will themselves become parents. Whether or not they will become tiger parents remains to be seen.