4.7 Etymology and Word Formation: 30-minute Pack

about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Each base word below has had a suffix added. Identify the word class of the resulting word.

Base word + suffix	Resulting word
happy + -ness	happiness
act + -ion	action
simple + -ify	simplify
danger + -ous	dangerous
quick + -ly	quickly

(a) happiness **(1)**

- ☐ A) noun
- ☐ B) verb
- ☐ C) adjective
- ☐ D) adverb

(b) action **(1)**

- ☐ A) noun
- ☐ B) verb
- ☐ C) adjective
- ☐ D) adverb

(c) simplify **(1)**

- ☐ A) noun
- ☐ B) verb
- ☐ C) adjective
- ☐ D) adverb

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(d) dangerous **(1)**

- ☐ A) noun
- ☐ B) verb
- ☐ C) adjective
- ☐ D) adverb

(e) quickly **(1)**

- ☐ A) noun
- ☐ B) verb
- ☐ C) adjective
- ☐ D) adverb

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

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2 Each word below was created using a different word-formation process. Identify the process used in each case.

Word	How it was likely formed
toothbrush	tooth + brush
brunch	breakfast + lunch
unhappy	un- + happy
burgle	formed from 'burglar'
to google	from the proper noun 'Google'
phone	shortened from 'telephone'

(a) toothbrush **(1)**

- ☐ A) compounding
- ☐ B) blending
- ☐ C) affixation
- ☐ D) back-formation
- ☐ E) conversion
- ☐ F) clipping

(b) brunch **(1)**

- ☐ A) compounding
- ☐ B) blending
- ☐ C) affixation
- ☐ D) back-formation
- ☐ E) conversion
- ☐ F) clipping

(c) unhappy **(1)**

- ☐ A) compounding
- ☐ B) blending
- ☐ C) affixation
- ☐ D) back-formation
- ☐ E) conversion
- ☐ F) clipping

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(d) burgle **(1)**

- ☐ A) compounding
- ☐ B) blending
- ☐ C) affixation
- ☐ D) back-formation
- ☐ E) conversion
- ☐ F) clipping

(e) to google **(1)**

- ☐ A) compounding
- ☐ B) blending
- ☐ C) affixation
- ☐ D) back-formation
- ☐ E) conversion
- ☐ F) clipping

(f) phone **(1)**

- ☐ A) compounding
- ☐ B) blending
- ☐ C) affixation
- ☐ D) back-formation
- ☐ E) conversion
- ☐ F) clipping

(Total for Question 2 is 6 marks)

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3 The Latin root 'struct' means 'to build'. Use 'struct' together with the correct prefix and/or suffix to form the word that matches each definition.

(a) to build something for the first time **(1)**

(b) the act of building something back up after damage **(1)**

(c) the process of pulling something down or breaking it apart **(1)**

(d) a person whose job is to teach or direct others, literally to 'build' knowledge in someone **(1)**

(e) something that blocks or gets in the way of progress **(1)**

(Total for Question 3 is 5 marks)

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4 The paragraph below contains four errors: two words that have been formed with the wrong prefix, and two homophones that have been used incorrectly. Rewrite the paragraph correctly.

'After the storm, the old fishing boat looked completely unrepairable, and the harbourmaster said the damage was totally unpossible to fix before winter. The captain agreed that they're was no point risking the crew on such an unsafe vessel, and he told them the boat had lost it's rudder in the worst of the weather.'

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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5 Choose ONE root from the box below (do not use a root that has already appeared elsewhere in this pack). Use it to form three different real English words: one noun, one verb and one adjective.

Root	Meaning
photo	light
hydro	water
port	carry
cred	believe

(Total for Question 5 is 3 marks)

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6 A student wrote the following claim in their homework: 'The suffix "-holic" can be added to any noun to mean addicted to, like in workaholic and chocoholic. This must be an old Latin or Greek suffix, just like the roots we have studied in this pack.'
Explain why this claim about the origin of '-holic' is not quite accurate, referring to the real word this suffix came from.

(Total for Question 6 is 3 marks)

7 Write a short piece of continuous prose (approximately 100-120 words) in which a character explains to a younger sibling why English spelling and vocabulary can seem so irregular.
Your writing must include: one compound word, one blended word, one word that uses a Greek or Latin root explored in this pack, and one correctly used possessive or contraction apostrophe. Underline each of these four features in your answer.

(Total for Question 7 is 12 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.7 Etymology and Word Formation: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) A) noun **B1**

(a) Answer: A

(b) A) noun **B1**

(b) Answer: A

(c) B) verb **B1**

(c) Answer: B

(d) C) adjective **B1**

(d) Answer: C

(e) D) adverb **B1**

(e) Answer: D

Question 2

(a) A) compounding **B1**

(a) Answer: A

(b) B) blending **B1**

(b) Answer: B

(c) C) affixation **B1**

(c) Answer: C

(d) D) back-formation **B1**

(d) Answer: D

(e) E) conversion **B1**

(e) Answer: E

(f) F) clipping **B1**

(f) Answer: F

Question 3

(a) construct, cao **B1**

(a) Answer: construct

(b) reconstruction, cao **B1**

(b) Answer: reconstruction

(c) destruction, cao (also accept deconstruction) **B1**

(c) Answer: destruction

(d) instructor, cao **B1**

(d) Answer: instructor

(e) obstruction, cao **B1**

(e) Answer: obstruction

Question 4

corrects 'unrepairable' to 'irreparable' (in- assimilates to ir- before r), cao **B1**

corrects 'unpossible' to 'impossible' (in- assimilates to im- before p), cao **B1**

corrects 'they're' to 'there' (the place adverb, from Old English, is needed, not the contraction of 'they are'), cao **B1**

corrects 'it's' to 'its' (the possessive determiner 'its' never takes an apostrophe, unlike a noun's possessive), cao **B1**

Answer: After the storm, the old fishing boat looked completely irreparable, and the harbourmaster said the damage was totally impossible to fix before winter. The captain agreed that there was no point risking the crew on such an unsafe vessel, and he told them the boat had lost its rudder in the worst of the weather.

Question 5

gives a correctly formed, real noun using the chosen root, cao **B1**

gives a correctly formed, real verb using the chosen root, cao **B1**

gives a correctly formed, real adjective using the chosen root, cao **B1**

Answer: Sample answer using 'port' (to carry): noun - porter (a person who carries luggage); verb - export (to carry goods out); adjective - portable (able to be carried).

Question 6

identifies that '-holic' actually comes from the existing word 'alcoholic' (alcohol + the adjective suffix -ic) **B1**

explains that speakers mistakenly re-split alcoholic as alc- + -oholic/-holic, treating the fragment as if it were its own suffix meaning 'addicted to' (oe) **B1**

notes that, unlike the ancient Latin/Greek roots studied elsewhere in this pack, '-holic' only emerged through this modern reanalysis, though it is now an accepted, productive part of informal English (oe) **B1**

Answer: '-holic' is not an ancient Latin or Greek suffix. It comes from 'alcoholic' (alcohol + -ic), which English speakers mistakenly re-split as alc- + -oholic, treating the leftover fragment as if it were a suffix meaning 'addicted to'. This created new words such as workaholic and chocoholic. Although it began as a mistaken re-analysis rather than a genuine ancient root, it is now a recognised, productive part of informal modern English.

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Question 7

AO5: Content and organisation (AO5)

Level 1 Simple explanation of why English can seem irregular; little sense of a consistent character voice or clear organisation.	**1-2**
Level 2 Some relevant, engaged explanation; an attempt at a consistent speaking voice appropriate to explaining something to a younger sibling; ideas are mostly sequenced clearly.	**3-4**
Level 3 Clear, engaging and convincing explanation in a consistent, well-judged voice; well organised, with a genuine sense of patience and clarity appropriate to addressing a younger sibling.	**5-6**

AO6: Technical accuracy (range and required features) (AO6)

Level 1 Limited accuracy; the four required features (compound word, blend, root-based word, apostrophe) are mostly missing or used incorrectly.	**1-2**
Level 2 Most of the four required features are present and mostly accurate, with occasional errors elsewhere.	**3-4**
Level 3 All four required features are present, clearly marked and used accurately and effectively, alongside a controlled range of other accurate sentence forms and vocabulary.	**5-6**

Indicative content:

- Explanation that English has borrowed words from many languages (Old English, Old Norse, French, Latin, Greek and others), which is why spelling patterns are inconsistent.
- A compound word used naturally within the explanation, e.g. 'notebook' or 'toothbrush'.
- A blended word used naturally, e.g. 'brunch' or 'smog', perhaps as an example of a newer kind of word formation.
- A word built from a Greek or Latin root explored earlier in the pack, used accurately in context (e.g. a word using bio-, tele-, struct, spect or similar).
- A correctly used possessive or contraction apostrophe (e.g. 'it's confusing' or 'the word's history'), distinguished from a nearby homophone if relevant.
- A patient, encouraging tone appropriate to a character reassuring a younger sibling that irregularity has a logical historical explanation.

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