



How to work out the meaning of the unknown words?

- break down the words into parts
- look for prefixes and suffixes
- decide if the word is positive, negative or neutral

Prefix	Meaning	Suffix	Meaning
<i>in-</i>	not; lacking	<i>-al</i>	connected with
<i>anti-</i>	against; opposing	<i>-ise</i>	cause to be
<i>omni-</i>	all; universally	<i>-wise</i>	relating to
<i>semi-</i>	half	<i>-ness</i>	state of being

Let's have a closer look!

Common sense seems to suggest to us that soaps given the label 'antibacterial' are better than the regular ones when it comes to killing bacteria and germs. Is it true? If so, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) might not have arrived at the decision to ban nearly 20 compounds usually added in antibacterial soaps in 2016. Before the ban, the FDA had requested manufacturers to provide solid evidence that the cleansing properties of those marketed as antibacterial soaps are truly better than those of the non-antibacterial ones. However, no persuasive evidence of their superiority was found, and studies revealing the risks posed by certain ingredients of antibacterial soaps surfaced...

The word 'antibacterial' can be broken down into three parts: *anti-* + *bacteri* + *-al*

In line 1, what does the word 'antibacterial' mean?

- A. the ability to kill bacteria ('antibacterial' ➤ ✗ noun)
- B. to fight against bacteria ('antibacterial' ➤ ✗ verb)
- C. beneficial to the growth of bacteria (✗ the prefix *anti-* means against or opposing)
- D. effective against bacteria ('against' ➤ ✔ meaning of the prefix *anti-*)

Let's practise!

I believe most people would call to mind black suits, black dresses and black ties when it comes to typical funeral attire. Is black the only colour considered appropriate? Surely not, though it is thought to be the ideal one. People who have no black clothing may go for colours like navy blue and charcoal grey, which are considered conservative enough for sombre occasions like funerals. So, do not attempt to wear bright, casual clothing like blue jeans and leather jackets as such inaptness would be seen as an absolute disrespect to not only the venue, but also the deceased and the beloved ones of the deceased.

In line 6, what does the word 'inaptness' mean?

- A. the fact of being not socially acceptable or appropriate
- B. unfriendly behaviour
- C. an offensive remark
- D. clothing that is widely considered to be inappropriate

Remind students that the word 'inaptness' can be broken down into three parts: the prefix *in-*, the adjective 'apt', and the suffix *-ness*. 'Apt' means 'suitable or right for a particular situation', and 'appropriate' is a synonym of 'apt'.