

# Reading Skill 3

## Finding the meaning of unknown words

To work out the meaning of the unknown words, try to:

1. locate the unknown word, underline it, **identify** its **part of speech**, and **eliminate** the options whose parts of speech stated before the definition fail to match the word's part of speech.
2. read the sentences or lines that come before and after the unknown word, then **replace** the **unknown word** with each option to see which one can **keep the meaning logical** and contextually **intact**.
3. **break down** the words into parts, look for **prefixes** and **suffixes**, and 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

### Example 1

Because of the unaffordable property prices and house rents, some citizens can only live in awfully small subdivided flats in districts like Sham Shui Po and Kowloon City.

The word 'subdivided', which comes before the noun 'flats', functions as an adjective. Given that the flats are awfully small, and that the word contains the root 'divide', we can assume the word describes flats which are 'divided into smaller sections'.





## Let's Practice

### Part A

Underline the phrases that suggest 'adverse' carries a negative meaning.

Air pollution, water pollution and noise pollution are prevalent in most places. Not only do they have **adverse** impacts on the environment and lower the quality of life, but they also threaten lives. According to the statistics of the World Health Organisation, in 2017, at least 1 in 4 children who were under the age of 5 died because of environmental problems. Moreover, air pollution causes acid rain, which lowers the nutrient level in soil and therefore weakens the growth of plants.

### Part B

Read the following paragraph and choose the best answers.

Ordinary batteries are thrown away once they run out of energy. A more environmentally-friendly replacement is **rechargeable** batteries. A rechargeable battery can normally be charged and used around 500 times. Costing nearly the same as the ordinary ones and being much more durable, they are considered much more **economical**!

1. What does 'rechargeable' mean?
  - A. able to be filled with electricity again
  - B. environmentally-friendly
  - C. more expensive than expected
  - D. not typical
2. What does 'economical' mean?
  - A. timesaving
  - B. energy-saving
  - C. cost-effective
  - D. wasteful