

- f) "Now there's a direct connection between Bristol and Athens, it has shortened our journey time by almost five hours."
- g) "He was so nervous he felt the muscles in his throat tighten up."
- h) "UN trade restrictions have so far failed to weaken the military government there."
- i) "Cook vegetables in a pan on a low flame for around ten minutes until they begin to soften."

This is not a 'rule'; we can't form verbs from all adjectives and there are also some irregularities. For example there is no verb 'biggen'. A verb which means to 'make bigger' (or 'larger') is to **enlarge** – the **en** is at the front. The verb **quicken** exists but it is not very common (we'd normally use the verb to **speed up**), while the verb **fasten** exists but does not mean 'to go faster'.

strengthen lengthen

Here are two verbs that are formed by adding **en** to the **noun**.

- a) "I'm going to give you a set of exercises to strengthen your stomach muscles."
- b) "Norwich International Airport will be closed until the end of July while work to lengthen the runway is taking place."

What time of day does the sky begin to darken?

What do you do when your belt is too loose? -

And if your belt feels too tight?

In English there's the saying: 'travel broadens the mind'. Can you guess what it means?

Have you ever had to shorten a holiday or a trip abroad?

What's the opposite of, 'The euro strengthened against the dollar'?

wish + would wish + past

One way we often use the verb **to wish** is when we would like something to happen or to change. We use the construction:

I wish + subject + would + verb

- a) "I wish those two would shut up. They've been arguing like that for hours."
- b) "I wish they wouldn't show so many political talk-shows on television. Who really cares anyway?"

We use **I wish you would / wouldn't** as a way of *asking* someone to do something or not do something. We use this form when we are annoyed.

- c) "I wish you'd knock before coming in. How did you know I wasn't having a meeting with someone?"
- d) "I wish you'd try and pay a bit more attention when I'm talking. I don't want to have to keep repeating everything just for you."
- e) "I wish you wouldn't read your text messages while we're talking. It's really rude."

We use **I wish + past of verb** for *unreal wishes*, things that we would like but we know are not possible. For example, when we write a postcard from a holiday a common way of ending it is with the phrase: "Wish you were here."

- f) "I wish my boss was as thoughtful as yours. I'd never be able to get time off as easily as you can."
- g) "I wish these seats weren't so uncomfortable. It makes it hard to concentrate on the lesson."

For the **past**, we use the Past Perfect. We use **wish + Past Perfect** for things we actually did, but which we changed our mind about when it was already too late; in other words for things we are now sorry about.

- h) "I wish I hadn't thrown Diana's address away. I just never thought that I'd ever need to get in touch with her."
- i) "Cold, isn't it? I wish I'd brought some warmer clothes?"
- j) "You're enjoying this now, aren't you? Don't you wish you hadn't waited so long before making your mind up?"

to ruin

ruins

If you **ruin** something it means that it was good and you made it bad.

Sue: Why did you **put** so much salt in the soup? You've ruined it!

Bob: Hey! There's no need to yell at me. Anyway - what's the big deal?
 It's just soup.

- a) "I'm disappointed with the hotel too, honey - but I'm not going to let it ruin our holiday."
- b) "It was awful. Gordon got legless and tried to start a fight with Jenny's father-in-law. It completely ruined the whole evening."

We often use **ruin** or the noun **ruins** when talking about very old buildings that have been partly destroyed.

- c) "At one time there was a great city here, but now there's nothing left apart from a few ruins."
- d) "I can't see why people travel all over the world just to see ruins. There's much better things to do on holiday than look at a load of old rocks."

Ancient means very old, and is often used about *buildings*, but not about furniture or jewellery, when we use the word **antique**.

What could ruin your day?

What can ruin a holiday? -

Do you have any personal experience?

Is there anywhere in your country that has been ruined by tourism?

Do you know which countries are well known for their ancient ruins?

to put someone up (sep.)

If you **put someone up** it means that you provide them with a place to sleep at your house.