



### Is the coronavirus weakening our future?

We can form some verbs by adding the suffix -EN to the adjective (or sometimes a noun) describing a feature – often comparatives describing getting higher level of the feature. These verbs fall into certain **categories**:

- Dimensions and shape - *lengthen, shorten, straighten* etc
- Light and colour - *brighten, darken, whiten* etc
- Density and composition - *harden, soften, thicken* etc
- General state - *freshen, ripen, sweeten* etc

#### Examples:

I will make it wider. → I will widen it.

Let's make it brighter → We shall brighten it.

#### Exercise 1. Fill the gaps with words given in the box.

tighten · lengthen · thick · fasten · deepen · harden · ripen  
· sweeten · worsen · strengthen · brighten · quieten · loosen

You can use honey as a healthier way to  food.

The couple have decided to  their relationship.

He took his tie off to  his shirt.

The green tomatoes soon turned red when I  them in the sun.

I'll go and  the children, they're so noisy!

As the papier-mâché dries out, it .

Heat it gently until it  to the consistency of cream.

Please  your safety belts, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The situation of global warming seems to be  rather than improving.

Some exercises should  your muscles.

Couldn't we  our trip from one to two weeks?

With the current economic crisis  our belts is essential.

#### Exercise 2. Now, try to form some more verbs with this suffix. Change the spelling of an adjective if it's necessary.



**Exercises 3.** You are going to read an article about the pandemic of COVID-19 and its impact on the climate change and economy. What springs to your mind when you see the title? While reading, try to find all of the verbs ended with the suffix mentioned before.

### **May the coronavirus weaken the climate change action?**

The coronavirus pandemic has stoked concerns of a global economic recession as it spreads across the world, igniting one of the sharpest oil price plummets in the last 30 years and causing the biggest stock plunge on Wall Street since the stock market crash in 1987. While the crisis has led to a temporary decline in global carbon dioxide emissions, experts are warning it poses a serious threat to long-term climate change action by compromising global investments in clean energy and weakening industry environmental goals to reduce emissions. The International Energy Agency, or IEA, has warned the virus outbreak will likely undermine clean energy investment and is urging governments to offer economic stimulus packages that invest in clean energy technologies. “If the lesson is learned, then [the virus] probably will soften the energy transition,” author and climate activist Bill McKibben told CNBC.

“If the lesson learned is, you have to take the physical world and its risks seriously, it could make governments more likely to quicken — especially since interest rates in much of the world are now effectively zero,” he said. The only time we see emissions significantly reduce is when countries go into recession," says Jon Erickson, an ecological economist at the University of Vermont's Gund Institute. While recessions are good for the climate, they're terrible for people — particularly those who already benefit least from our fossil-fuel economies. Among the hardest hit by China's coronavirus response are low-waged migrant workers already living weakened lives.

Solar manufacturers across the world are citing production and project delay, and analysts are warning of higher costs for green manufacturers and a hit to global operations as the virus widens its reach. Rob Jackson, a professor of Earth system science at Stanford University and chair of the Global Carbon Project, said the virus will hold back climate change action from corporations and countries despite the short-term drop in carbon emissions from the outbreak. “If the global economy crashes, emissions will drop short term as the production of goods lessened, but climate action will slow. Employment trumps environment in politics,” Jackson said. “If companies are hurting, they may delay or even cancel climate-friendly policies that require investments up front.” Airlines, for example, have seen a dramatic decline in air travel and emissions in the short term as the virus spreads.

While demand will likely bounce back after the worst of the pandemic is over and people return to flying, the industry has cited financial turmoil from the virus as a reason to weaken or delay environmental programs in place to reduce emissions. Aviation accounts for 2% to 3% of global carbon emissions. “For companies, the outbreak is already introducing doubt into renewable-energy global supply chains and challenging company balance sheets,” said Dr. Melissa Lott, a researcher at the Center of Global Energy Policy at Columbia University. As major economies across the world begin to prepare economic stimulus packages, the IEA has called for governments to focus on driving climate action and building out low carbon infrastructure in those plans and straightening its chances by deadening the plans to make up for losses and taking an advantage of the pandemic. Meanwhile, the Trump administration has considered providing assistance for hard-hit industries such as the cruise ships and airlines, as well as offering low-interest loans to oil and gas producers that have seen declines in oil prices — a move that would further lock in carbon-intensive investments. “We have not yet seen similar offers for clean energy companies,” Lock said. “If economic stimulus packages drive money away from clean energy investments by infusing fossil fuels industries with short-term capital while ignoring clean energy supply chains. We could see a domino effect that would push us further away from our clean energy goals,” she added.

[Adapted from: <https://www.cnbc.com>]

### **Exercise 4. Answer the questions below**

1. How and to which extent does the pandemic help the planet?
2. What impact does it have to the economy? How is the recession correlated with global warming?
3. What is your approach to the problem? Do you think that the current brightening the situation of gas emission can remain stable or rather there is no chance to keep the situation balanced because of the companies and governments in need to bounce back to the market?
4. Do you remember any different domino effect concerning both ecology and economy to that huge extent?