

2.6 Prefix ob-

ob- means “against” or “toward” (as in *obstruct*)

Mnemonic	Assimilative Form	When	Example
Let's			
Make			
Spelling			
Really			
Fun (&)	of-	before f	offense
Cool	oc-	before c	occlude
Please	op-	before p	oppose
Do			
Not			
Go			
There			
*other			

ob- doesn't change other times



Did You Know...

in the word *opponent*,
the root *ponē* means “place” or “set,”
and the prefix *op-* (assimilative form of *ob-*)
means “against”?

An *opponent* is someone set against you.

2.6-1 ob- becomes oc-, of-, and op-

ob- means “against” or “toward”

ob- becomes **oc-** before a morpheme beginning with *c* (as in *occur*)

ob- becomes **of-** before a morpheme beginning with *f* (as in *offer*)

ob- becomes **op-** before a morpheme beginning with *p* (as in *opposition*)

Level A and B Words

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| *1) occupant | *8) opponent | 15) opportune |
| *2) occurrence | *9) offices | 16) oppositional |
| *3) occasionally | *10) offense | 17) oppressed |
| *4) unoccupied | 11) officially | 18) officiate |
| *5) offensive | 12) occlude | 19) oppression |
| *6) official | 13) occult | 20) opportunist |
| *7) opposite | 14) occipital lobe | |

Level A and B Phrases

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| *1) opposites attract | *5) irritating frequent occurrence |
| *2) offensive odor | 6) oppressive 110° heat |
| *3) official badge | 7) officiated the wedding ceremony |
| *4) a fierce opponent | 8) opposable thumb |

Level A and B Sentences

- *1) Are the new classrooms designed to accommodate forty occupants?
- *2) Jennifer was disqualified from the debate when she used offensive language with her opponents.
- 3) Because of her oppositional personality, she argued with everyone.
- 4) As hard as I try, I can't get into occult novels about vampires.
- 5) The occipital lobe, a part of the brain, helps you figure out what your eyes are seeing.
- 6) Being an opportunist, Gary took advantage of the free admission tickets before anyone else had a chance.

2.6-2 ob- doesn't change

ob- means “against” or “toward”

ob- doesn't change before other consonants or vowels

Level A and B Words

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| *1) obligated | *8) obstruction | 15) obliterated |
| *2) oblong | *9) obviously | 16) obsolete |
| *3) observation | 10) objectify | 17) obtrusive |
| *4) obtainable | 11) obstinate | 18) oblivion |
| *5) obsession | 12) observatory | 19) obtuse |
| *6) obstacle | 13) obituary | 20) obstreperous |
| *7) objection | 14) obscure | |

Level A and B Phrases

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| *1) Space Needle observation deck | 5) obligatory attendance |
| *2) obstructing my view of the play | 6) obsolete computer technology |
| *3) oblong dining table | 7) obstreperous, unmanageable child |
| 4) pushy, obtrusive behavior | 8) faded into oblivion |

Level A and B Sentences

- *1) Susan's comments were obviously meant to offend Jack.
- *2) The theater's manager refused to remove the obstacle obstructing my view.
- 3) Shingru won the trivia game by recalling the title of an obscure film.
- 4) Our dog was so obstinate about not taking a bath, it was as if his paws were glued to the ground.
- 5) Aziz was so deeply immersed in his book that he was oblivious to everything around him.
- 6) A hurricane has the power to completely obliterate, or destroy, a town.

Tim,

As your best friend, I feel obligated to tell you the truth. I really object to the condition of your locker. I'm not sure why you are so opposed to cleaning it out, but it's time for an intervention. It's time for Operation Clean Locker.

Since my locker is right next to yours, I have observed some truly disturbing things. Each morning when you open the locker, there is an avalanche. I know you have lost objects in there, and your view of the bottom is totally obstructed by stacks of stuff. Where do you even keep your books? All the space is occupied by crumpled papers and garbage.

Speaking of garbage, the smell that wafts over to me when you pop that locker open each morning is completely offensive. It's as if you have mystery meat from the school cafeteria decomposing in there. The EPA could officially declare your locker a federal disaster site.

I have offered to help you clean out the mess in the past, but you never took me seriously. For months now, you have been obstinately refusing to do anything about the situation. I'm not optimistic that this note will work, but I had to try. If your locker doesn't get better, I might have to ask the main office to move my locker to a different spot!

Your offended friend,
Mike