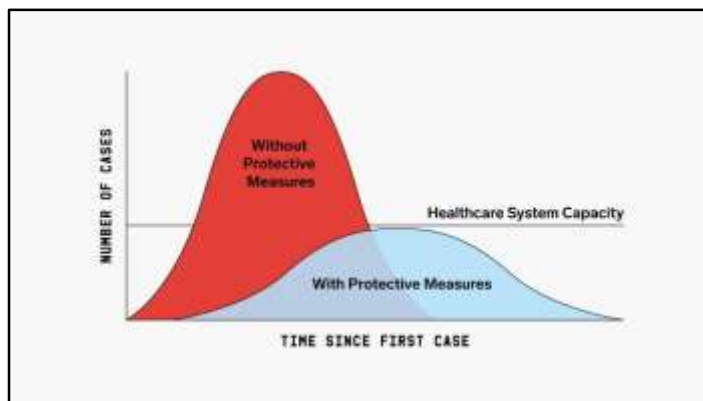


Flatten the curve



From the beginning of the outbreak, scientists and doctors have been arguing for social distancing as a way to “flatten the curve” i.e. make sure that the healthcare system in each country is not overrun by patients, that hospitals and GPs rather receive patients over a longer time span, allowing them to treat the ill. Most countries have now adopted these measures.

What we want to look at today is the word “**flatten**”, which means *to make flat*. Many verbs in English are made by simply adding an *-en* to the adjective or noun to make a verb.

(Here *flat + en = to flatten*). If you know this, you can quickly extend your vocabulary. This is especially useful for **SIZE** and **COLOUR** words:

Size		Colour	
wide	widen	red	red
short	shorten	bright	brighten
length	lengthen	dark	darken

Choose the correct adjective/noun from below and then change it into a verb by adding *en*.

wide, fright, hard, broad, sad, straight, short, tight, sharp, bright

- Let's stop talking of the virus, it _____ me.
- We can now read lots of books to _____ our knowledge.
- If you _____ your shoelaces incorrectly, they will become undone.
- If you paint the room white, it will _____ the room.
- Can you _____ my tie, I can't see if it's crooked.
- Before doing woodcarving I always _____ my knives.
- Because the schools have closed, they have _____ the school term.
- It _____ me that people still have parties and don't keep their distance.
- Wait for the glue to _____ a bit before putting the 2 pieces together.
- They want to _____ the street so that there is enough place for cars and bicycles.

1. frightens 2. broaden 3. tighten 4. brighten 5. straighten
6. sharpen 7. shorten 8. sadden 9. harden 10. widen