

Prefixes

A prefix is a letter or group of letters attached to the beginning of a root or base word that changes the meaning of the word.

Suffixes

A suffix is a letter or group of letter attached to the end of a root or base word that changes the meaning of the word.

anti-

anti- means against; the opposite

anti + *pollution* = antipollution (against
pollution)

anti + *magnetic* = antimagnetic (not magnetic)

Antipollution laws help our environment.

Plastic toys are **antimagnetic**.

bi-

bi- means two; twice

bi + *cycle* = bicycle (two wheeled)

bi + *weekly* + *biweekly* (twice a week)

Both tires on my **bicycle** were flat.

She has math tests **biweekly**.

dis-

dis- means opposite of; lack of; not

dis + *honest* = *dishonest* (not honest)

dis + *order* = *disorder* (lack of order)

A person who does not tell the truth is

dishonest.

A messy room is in ***disorder.***

en-

en- means within; put into

en + *trust* = *entrust* (trust into)

en + *close* = *enclose* (closed within)

She can ***entrust*** her friend to keep a secret.

The fence will ***enclose*** the yard.

hyper-

hyper- means more than; beyond

hyper + *active* = *hyperactive* (beyond active)

hyper + *sensitive* (overly sensitive)

The **hyperactive** hamster ran on his wheel all
night.

The boy covered his ears because he was
hypersensitive to the noise.

ex-

ex- means out

ex + *port* = *export* (out of port)

Many countries **export** food and products
to other nations.

il-

im-

il- means not; without; towards;
into

im- means not; without; towards; into
im + possible = impossible (not possible)

il + legal = illegal (not legal)

*It is illegal to drive without a
license.*

It is impossible to live without water.

in-

inter-

in- means not; without; towards; into

in + *visible* = *invisible* (not visible)

Germs are ***invisible*** to the human eye.

inter- means between; among

inter + *act* = *interact* (to act upon one another)

The students ***interact*** with their teacher.

ir-

mis-

ir- means not

ir + responsible = irresponsible (not responsible)

It is irresponsible to not take care of your books.

mis- means not; wrong

mis + spelled = misspelled (spelled wrong)

mis + understand = misunderstand (not understanding)

*I misspelled two words on my test.
I hope you don't misunderstand what I say.*

out-

out- means surpassing; exceeding

out + *numbered* = *outnumbered*
(exceeding in number)

The blue team *outnumbered* the red team
12 to 10.

non-

non- means absence; not

non + *stop* = *nonstop* (not stopping)

There was *nonstop* talking at lunch.

post-

post- means after in time, place, or
order

post + *script* = *postscript* (after writing)

He added a **postscript** to his letter.

pre-

pre- means before in time, place, order
or importance

pre + *test* = *pretest* (test before)

The class took a **pretest** to see what they
needed to study.

pro-

pro- means favoring; in support of

pro + *active* = *proactive* (in support of
action)

It is better to be **proactive** than inactive when
it comes to education.

re-

re- means again

re + *read* = *reread* (read again)

Please **reread** your book before you
take a test.

semi-

semi- means half; partly

semi + circle = semicircle (half circle)

The children sat in a semicircle to listen to the teacher read a story.

sub-

sub- means at a lower position; below

*sub + way = subway (underground
passageway)*

sub + soil = subsoil (layer under the surface)

*The subway travel below the city streets.
The plant's roots are in the subsoil.*

trans-

tri-

trans- means over; across; beyond

trans + *continental* = *transcontinental*
(across the continent)

The transcontinental railroad travels
from San Francisco to New York City.

tri- means three

tri + *angle* = *triangle* (having three
angles)

All shapes that have three sides and
three angles are *triangles*.

un-

un- means not; cancellation of action

un + familiar = unfamiliar (not familiar)

un + lock = unlock (to undo a lock)

The new student was **unfamiliar** with the rules.

My mom **unlocked** the car so we could get in.

uni-

uni- mean one

uni + cycle = one wheel

The clown rode a **unicycle** in the circus show.

-able

-able means capable of

bend + able = bendable (able to be bent)

read + able = readable (capable of being read)

*When metal is heated, it can become **bendable**.*

*The print was large enough to be **readable**.*

-age

-age means action; process

pass + age = passage (the process of passing)

*The Panama Canal created a **passage** between
the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.*

-ate

-ate means state or quality of

*affection + ate = affectionate (the state of
showing affection)*

The affectionate puppy loved to be held.

-ar

-ar means of; relating to; being

sol + ar = solar (relating to the sun)

*Houses can be heated by using solar
energy.*

-ation

-ation mean action or process

*narrate + ation = narration (the act of
narrating)*

*Elizabeth was assigned the **narration** part in
the school play.*

-cycle

-cycle mean circle; wheel

*motor + cycle = motorcycle (a motor
vehicle with wheels)*

*The history of the **motorcycle** begins in the
1860's.*

-ed

-en

-ed changes a verb to its past tense

walk + ed = walked (walking that
already occurred)

Yesterday I **walked** to school.

-en changes a word to a verb

tight + en = tighten (to make tight)

Nate will **tighten** his shoe laces before he
runs the mile.

-ence

-ence means state or condition; action

*depend + ence = dependence (the state of
being dependent)*

*The Revolutionary War ended the United
State's **dependence** on England.*

-ent

*-ent means performing/causing; one who
performs/causes*

*correspond + ent = correspondent (one who
corresponds)
absorb + ent = absorbent (performing
absorption)*

*The news **correspondent** appeared on television
to report the events of the day.*

*The paper towel was very **absorbent**.*

-er

-ess

-er means more; action or process; a person
who does an action

fast + er = faster (more than fast)

flit (t) + er = flitter (the action of flitting)

teach + er = teacher (one who teaches)

*A cheetah runs **faster** than a tiger.*

*The butterfly likes to **flitter** around the garden.*

*The **teacher** gave a lesson on suffixes.*

-ess means the female form of a word

lion + ess = lioness (a female lion)

*The **lioness** protected her cubs.*

-est

-ful

-est means most

hot (t) + est = hottest (the most hot)

*The **hottest** days of the year occur during the summer months.*

-ful means full of

thank + ful = (full of thanks)

*The farmers were **thankful** for their harvest.*

-ible

-ing

-ible means able to be

vis + ible = visible (able to be seen)

*The score board was **visible** from across the field.*

-ing means materials; action or process

frost + ing = frosting (edible sugar coating)

frost + ing = frosting (the act of putting frosting on)

*The pink **frosting** was delicious.
Zoey liked **frosting** the cupcakes.*

-ion

-ion means action; process

celebrate + ion = celebration (the act of celebrating)

*Her birthday **celebration** is this Saturday.*

-ish

-ish means relating to; characteristic

child + ish = childish (relating to a child)

*A temper tantrum is a **childish** behavior.*

-ISM

-ism means state or quality

*hero + ism = heroism (the act of being a
hero)*

*The police officer was awarded for his
heroism.*

-ity

-ity means state, condition, or quality

*equal + ity = equality (the state of being
equal)*

*Our country believes in equality for all its
citizens.*

-ive

-ize

-ive means inclined to; quality of; that which

attract + ive = attractive (that which attracts)

*Brightly colored flowers are attractive to
butterflies.*

-ize means cause; treat, become

visual + ize = visualize (to become visible)

*It is helpful to visualize your ideas on
paper.*

-less

-ly

-less means without

fear + less = fearless (without fear)

She was a fearless soccer player.

-ly means in what manner

slow + ly = slowly (in a slow way)

*The snail moved **slowly** across the
sidewalk.*

-ment

***-ment** means action; result*

*move + ment = movement (the action of
moving)*

*The ballerina learned the difficult dance
movement for her performance.*

-ness

***-ness** means state or quality*

*kind + ness = kindness (the state of being
kind)*

***Kindness** is helping others when they are
feeling sad.*

-or

-or means a person who

invent + or = inventor (one who invents)

*Benjamin Franklin was an **inventor** and
statesman.*

-ous

-ous means full of

humor + ous = humorous (full of humor)

*The class laughed at the **humorous** story.*

-ship

-ship means state or condition of; skill of
friend + ship = friendship (the state of being
a friend.

Our friendship has lasted ten years.

-tion

-tion means state or quality
fascinate + tion = fascination (the state of
being fascinated)

*Cats always have a **fascination** for a ball of*
yarn.

-ty

-ty means state, condition, or quality

loyal + ty = loyalty (the state of being loyal)

***Loyalty** is a great quality of a friend.*