

# Common Prefixes, Suffixes and Roots

Prefix: a word part added to the beginning of the word that changes the word's meaning.

Prefix	Origin	Meaning	Word Example and Meaning
<b>ab</b>	Latin	away, from	absent, abrasive
<b>ad</b>	Latin	to, toward	adhere – to stick to something
<b>aer, air</b>	Latin	air	airport – a place for planes
<b>ante</b>	Latin	before	antebellum – before the war
<b>anti</b>	Greek	against	antidote – something that counteracts or “acts against” poison
<b>auto</b>	Greek	self	automobile – self-moving
<b>bene</b>	Latin	good	benefit – an act of kindness, gift
<b>circum</b>	Latin	around	circumference – distance around something
<b>con, contra</b>	Latin	against	contradict – talk against
<b>com</b>	Latin	with or together with	communal – living together
<b>de</b>	Latin	reverse, remove	defoliate – remove the trees
<b>dis</b>	Greek	apart	dislocate – to move apart, move out of place
<b>equi</b>	Latin	equal	equidistant – equal distance
<b>ex</b>	Latin	out	execute – to take out, kill
<b>extra</b>	Latin	beyond	extraordinary – beyond ordinary
<b>fore</b>	Anglo-Saxon	before	foretell – to tell beforehand
<b>hyper</b>	Greek	over	hyperactive – overly active
<b>hypo</b>	Greek	under	hypotension – low blood pressure
<b>in</b>	Latin	in	interim - in between
<b>inter</b>	Latin	between	intervene – come between
<b>mal</b>	Latin	bad	malnourished – badly nourished
<b>mono</b>	Greek	single	monorail – single railed vehicle
<b>micro</b>	Greek	small	microchip – small chip
<b>non</b>	Latin	not	nonconformist – not conforming
<b>poly</b>	Greek	many	polygon – many sided figure
<b>pro</b>	Latin	for	proponent – a supporter
<b>re</b>	Latin	back, again	review – to look over again
<b>retro</b>	Latin	backward	retrospect – a look back on things
<b>semi</b>	Latin	half	semicircle – half of a circle
<b>sub</b>	Latin	under	submarine – underwater boat
<b>tele</b>	Greek	far	telescope – seeing afar
<b>thermo</b>	Greek	heat	thermometer – device to measure heat
<b>trans</b>	Latin	across	transcontinental – across the continent

# ROOT WORDS

Root words: basic word parts to which prefixes, suffixes, or both are added.

Root Word	Origin	Meaning	Word Example and Meaning
<b>ad</b>	Latin	toward, in addition to	advance - to travel toward
<b>agri</b>	Greek	field	agriculture – to grow in the field
<b>aqua</b>	Latin	water	aquarium – container of water
<b>astro</b>	Greek	star	astronaut – one who travels to the stars
<b>bio</b>	Greek	life	biology – study of life
<b>cardio</b>	Greek	heart	cardiac- referring to the heart
<b>civ</b>	Latin	citizen	civilian – a citizen not on active duty with the military
<b>crit, cris</b>	Latin	separate, discern, judge	critic – a person who judges something
<b>derma</b>	Greek	skin	epidermis – the outer layer of skin
<b>dict, dic</b>	Latin	say, tell, speak	dictate – to tell to someone else
<b>dyna</b>	Greek	power	dynamic – changing, powerful
<b>geo</b>	Greek	earth	geographic – the study of the earth
<b>helio</b>	Greek	sun	heliotrope – a plant that turns toward the sun
<b>hydro</b>	Greek	water	hydraulic – force of water
<b>ject</b>	Latin	throw	eject – to throw out
<b>labor, lab</b>	Latin	work	laborious – requiring a lot of work
<b>magni</b>	Latin	great, big	magnify – to increase or enlarge
<b>nautique</b>	Latin	pertaining to the sea	nautical – something relating to the sea or to ships
<b>ortho</b>	Greek	straight	orthodox – true, right or straight
<b>path</b>	Greek	feeling	pathetic – arousing compassion or pity
<b>pend, pond, pens</b>	Latin	to weigh, pay, consider	ponder – to consider something deeply
<b>pli(c), ple</b>	Latin	interweave, bend, twist, fold	complex – interwoven, complicated
<b>pod</b>	Greek	foot	pseudopod – false foot
<b>port</b>	Latin	carry	export – to carry outside
<b>scope</b>	Greek	to see	telescope – to see afar
<b>script, scrib</b>	Latin	write	transcribe – to copy over, write
<b>spec, spect</b>	Latin	look, appear, see	inspect – to look closely
<b>terra</b>	Latin	earth	terrace – a raised platform of earth
<b>thermo</b>	Greek	heat	thermos – a vessel to keep heat within
<b>tru</b>	Anglo Saxon	truthful	truce – a suspension of hostilities by mutual agreement

# Suffixes

Suffix: word parts added to the end of a word. A suffix can change the word's meaning or the way the word is used in the sentence.

Suffix		Meaning	Word Example and Meaning
<b>able, ible</b>	Latin	able to, possible to	capable - able to be noticed
<b>ant, ent</b>	Latin	performing, agent	assistant - one who acts to assist
<b>ate</b>	Latin	to become	affectionate – associated with showing love
<b>en</b>	Latin	associated with	weaken - to make weaker
<b>ence, ance</b>	Latin	made of, make	continuance - to continue
<b>ery, ary, ory</b>	Latin	action, state of, quality	library - a place where books are kept
<b>er, est</b>	Anglo-Saxon	relating to, quality, place where	busier, busiest - comparative form of busy
<b>er</b>	Latin	comparative form	circumference – a circle containing the space in the circle.
<b>ful</b>	Anglo-Saxon	to contain	helpful-full of help
<b>ic</b>	Greek	full of	poetic-having to do with the qualities of poetry
<b>ify, fy</b>	Latin	pertaining to, having to do with	notify-to give or make notice
<b>ion, tion, sion</b>	Latin	to make	corruption-the state of being corrupt
<b>ious, ous</b>	Latin	act of, state of, result of	joyous-possessing the quality of joy
<b>ism</b>	Latin and Greek	possessing the quality of	heroism – the condition of being a hero
<b>ist</b>	Latin	system, manner or condition	tourist - one who tours or visits places.
<b>ize, ise</b>	Latin	one who is	theorize - to make theories come together.
<b>less</b>	Anglo-Saxon	to make like, come together	speechless - without speech
<b>ly</b>	Latin	without	slowly - in a slow manner.
<b>ment</b>	Latin	like, in a manner	replacement - the act of replacing something.
<b>ness</b>	Greek	act of, result	helpfulness - being full of help.
<b>ology</b>	Greek	full of	biology – study of life
<b>or, er</b>	Latin	study of	inventor – someone who invents
<b>ship</b>	Latin	person or thing that	leadership – possessing leader qualities.
<b>tain</b>	Latin	full of , possessing	contain – to hold
<b>y</b>	Anglo-Saxon	hold, grasp, have	hardy – the quality of being able to endure
		quality, somewhat like	hardship

