



Prefixes and Suffixes



A **prefix** is a word part added to the beginning of a root word.



A **prefix** changes the
meaning of a word.

Prefixes	Meaning	examples
1. Anti	Against	Anti-war, antisocial, antibiotic
2. Auto	Of or by oneself	Autograph, auto-pilot, autobiography
3. Bi	Two, twice	Bicycle, bi-monthly, biannual, bilingual
4. Ex	Former	Ex-wife, ex-student, ex-president
5. Ex	Out of	Extract, exhale, excommunicate
6. Micro	Small	Micro-computer, microwave,
7. Mis	Badly/wrongly	microscopic
8. Mono	One/single	Misunderstand, mistranslate, misinform
		Monotonous, monologue, monogamous

9. Multi

Many

9. Multi-national, multi-purpose,

10. Over

Too much

multi-racial

11. Post

After

10. Overdo, overtired, oversleep, overeat

12. Pro

In favour of

11. Postwar, postgraduate,

13. Pseudo

False

post-revolutionary

14. Re

Again or back

12. Pro-government, pro-revolutionary

15. Semi

Half

13. Pseudo-scientific, pseudo-intellectual

16. Sub

Under

14. Retype, reread, replace, rewind

17. under

Not enough

15. Semicircular, semi-final, semi-detached

16. Subway, submarine, subdivision

17. Under-worked, underused,

undercooked

Prefixes that mean "no": a- de- dis-, in- non- un-, contra

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
a-, an-	without, not	asexual, atypical, amoral, anarchy
de-	reverse action, away	defrost, demystify, desensitize,
dis-, dif-, di-	not, apart	deduct
in-, il-, ir-, im-	not	dissatisfied, disorganized
non-	not	inappropriate, invisible, illegal,
un-	not	impossible
contra-, counter-	against	nonproductive, nonessential, nonsense unlikely, unnoticeable, unreliable contrary, contradict, counterproductive

PREFIXES THAT INDICATE "WHEN," "WHERE,"

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
1. pre-, pro-	1. before	1. Predinner, preliminary, previous, prologue
2. post-	2. after	2. postmeridian, postwar, postoperative, postpone
3. ante-	3. before	3. antemeridian, antecedent, antechamber
4. inter-	4. between, among	4. interstate, intercept, interfere
5. intra-	5. within	5. intramural, intrastate, intravenous
6. trans-	6. across	6. transcontinental, transparent, transaction
7. sub-	7. under	7. submarine, submerge, subjugate

What is a SUFFIX?

A **suffix** is a word part added to the end of a root word.



A **suffix** also changes
the meaning of a word.

Common Noun Suffixes

- ‘-er’ is used for the person who does an active, e.g. writer, worker, shopper, teacher. You can use ‘-er’ with a wide range of verbs to make them into “nouns”.
- Sometimes, the / er / suffix is written as ‘-or’ instead of ‘-er’ . It is worth making a special list of these as you meet them, e.g. actor, operator, sailor, supervisor.

- **'-er' / '-or'** are also used for things which do a particular job, e.g. pencil-sharpener, bottle-opener, grater, projector.
- **'-er' and '-ee'** can contrast with each other meaning 'person who does something.'
- **'-er' and 'person who receives or experiences the action' (-ee)**, e.g. employer/employee,
- **Sender/addressee, payee** (e.g. of a cheque).
- **'-(t)ion / l ()n'** is used to make nouns from verbs.
- **Complication, pollution, reduction, alteration, donation, admission**

- **'-st' [person] and '-ism' [activity or ideology]:** used for people's politics, beliefs and ideologies, and sometimes the profession (compare with '-er/-or' Profession above)
- e.g. Marxism, Buddhism, journalism, anarchist, physicist, terrorist.
- **'-ist'** is also often used for people who play musician instruments, e.g. pianist, violinist, cellist.
-
- **'-ness'** is used to make nouns from adjectives. Note what happens to adjectives that end in '-y':
- e.g. Goodness, readiness, forgetfulness, sadness, weakness.

B. Adjective Suffix

- **'able/-ible'** with verbs, means 'can be done'.
- e.g. - drinkable, washable, readable, recognizable, countable, forgivable
- - edible (can be eaten), flexible (can be bent)

C. Verbs

- ‘-ise’ (or -ize) makes from adjectives, e.g. modernize, commercialize, industrialize.
- ‘en’ makes from adjectives e.g; widen, darken, whiten, etc.

word class

- -ment : (nouns) excitement, enjoyment, replacement
- -ity : (nouns) flexibility, productivity, scarcity
- -hood : (abstract nouns especially family terms) childhood, motherhood
- -ship : (abstract nouns especially status) friendship, partnership, membership
- -ive : (adjectives) passive, productive, active
- -al : (adjectives) brutal, legal, (nouns) refusal, arrival
- -ous : (adjectives) delicious, outrageous, furious
- -ful : (adjectives) forgetful, hopeful, useful
- -less : (adjectives) useless, harmless, cloudless
- -ify : (verbs) beautify, purify, terrify