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PREFIX

A prefix (affix) is a word, or letter(s) placed at the beginning of another word (a base word) to adjust or qualify its usage or meaning. The opposite of prefix is suffix.

A **prefix** is placed at the beginning of a word to modify or change its meaning. This is a list of the most common prefixes in English, together with their basic meaning and some examples. You can find more detail or precision for each prefix in any good dictionary.

Root, Prefix or Suffix	Meaning	Examples
a, ac, ad, af, ag, al, an, ap, as, at	to, toward, near, in addition to, by	aside, accompany, adjust, aggression, allocate, annihilate, affix, associate, attend, adverb
a-, an-	not, without	apolitical, atheist, anarchy, anonymous, apathy, aphasia, anemia
ab, abs	away from, off	absolve, abrupt, absent
-able, -ible	Adjective: worth, ability	solvable, incredible
acer, acid, acri	bitter, sour, sharp	acerbic, acidity, acrid, acrimony
act, ag	do, act, drive	active, react, agent, active, agitate
acu	sharp	acute, acupuncture, accurate
-acy, -cy	Noun: state or quality	privacy, infancy, adequacy, intimacy, supremacy
-ade	act, product, sweet drink	blockade, lemonade
aer, aero	air, atmosphere, aviation	aerial, aerosol, aerodrome
ag, agi, ig, act	do, move, go	agent, agenda, agitate, navigate, ambiguous, action
-age	Noun: activity, or result of action	courage, suffrage, shrinkage, tonnage
agri, agro	pertaining to fields or soil	agriculture, agroindustry

-al	Noun: action, result of action	referral, disavowal, disposal, festival
-al, -ial, -ical	Adjective: quality, relation	structural, territorial, categorical
alb, albo	white, without pigment	albino, albite
ali, allo, alter	other	alias, alibi, alien, alloy, alter, alter ego, altruism
alt	high, deep	altimeter, altitude
am, ami, amor	love, like, liking	amorous, amiable, amicable, enamoured
ambi	both	ambidextrous
ambul	to walk	ambulatory, amble, ambulance, somnambulist
-an	Noun: person	artisan, guardian, historian, magician
ana, ano	up, back, again, anew	anode, anagram, anagenetic
-ance, -ence	Noun: action, state, quality or process	resistance, independence, extravagance, fraudulence
-ancy, -ency	Noun: state, quality or capacity	vacancy, agency, truancy, latency
andr, andro	male, characteristics of men	androcentric, android
ang	angular	angle
anim	mind, life, spirit, anger	animal, animate, animosity
ann, annu, enni	yearly	annual, annuity, anniversary, perennial
-ant, -ent	Noun: an agent, something that performs the action	disinfectant, dependent, fragrant
-ant, -ent, -ient	Adjective: kind of agent, indication	important, dependent, convenient
ante	before	anterior, anteroom, antebellum, antedate, antecedent antediluvian
anthrop	man	anthropology, misanthrope, philanthropy
anti, ant	against, opposite	antisocial, antiseptic, antithesis, antibody, antinomies, antifreeze, antipathy
anti, antico	old	antique, antiquated, antiquity
apo, ap, aph	away from, detached, formed	apology, apocalypse, aphagia

aqu	water	aqueous
-ar, -ary	Adjective: resembling, related to	spectacular, unitary
arch	chief, first, rule	archangel, architect, archaic, monarchy, matriarchy, patriarchy, Archeozoic era
-ard, -art	Noun: characterized	braggart, drunkard, wizard
aster, astr	star	aster, asterisk, asteroid, astronomy, astronaut
-ate	Noun: state, office, function	candidate, electorate, delegate
-ate	Verb: cause to be	graduate, ameliorate, amputate, colligate
-ate	Adjective: kind of state	inviolate
-ation	Noun: action, resulting state	specialization, aggravation, alternation
auc, aug, aut	to originate, to increase	augment, author, augment, auction
aud, audi, aur, aus	to hear, listen	audience, audio, audible, auditorium, audiovisual, audition, auricular, auscultate
aug, auc	increase	augur, augment, auction
aut, auto	self	automobile, automatic, automotive, autograph, autonomous, autoimmune
bar	weight, pressure	barometer
be	on, around, over, about, excessively, make, cause, name, affect	berate, bedeck, bespeak, belittle, beleaguer
belli	war	rebellion, belligerent, casus belli, bellicose
bene	good, well, gentle	benefactor, beneficial, benevolent, benediction, beneficiary, benefit
bi, bine	two	biped, bifurcate, biweekly, bivalve, biannual
bibl, bibli, biblio	book	bibliophile, bibliography, Bible
bio, bi	life	biography, biology, biometrics, biome, biosphere
brev	short	abbreviate, brevity, brief
cad, cap, cas, ceiv, cept, capt, cid, cip	to take, to seize, to hold	receive, deceive, capable, capacious, captive, accident, capture, occasion, concept, intercept, forceps, except, reciprocate
cad, cas	to fall	cadaver, cadence, cascade
-cade	procession	motorcade
calor	heat	calorie, caloric, calorimeter

capit, capt	head	decapitate, capital, captain, caption
carn	flesh	carnivorous, incarnate, reincarnation, carnal
cat, cata, cath	down, with	catalogue, category, catheter
caus, caut	burn, heat	caustic, cauldron, cauterize
cause, cuse, cus	cause, motive	because, excuse, accusation
ceas, ced, cede, ceed, cess	to go, to yield, move, go, surrender	succeed, proceed, precede, recede, secession, exceed, succession
cent	hundred	centennial, century, centipede
centr, centri	center	eccentricity, centrifugal, concentric, eccentric
chrom	color	chrome, chromosome, polychrome, chromatic
chron	time	chronology, chronic, chronicle chronometer, anachronism, synchronize
cide, cis, cise	to kill, to cut, cut down	fratricide, homicide, incision, incision, circumcision, scissors
circum	around	circumnavigate, circumflex, circumstance, circumcision, circumference, circumorbital, circumlocution, circumvent, circumscribe, circulatory
cit	call, start	incite, citation, cite
civ	citizen	civic, civil, civilian, civilization
clam, claim	cry out	exclamation, clamor, proclamation, reclamation, acclaim
clin	lean, bend	decline, aclinic, inclination
clud, clus claus	to close, shut	include, exclude, clause, claustrophobia, enclose, exclusive, reclusive, conclude
co, cog, col, coll, con, com, cor	with, together	cohesiveness, cognate, collaborate, convene, commitment, compress, contemporary, converge, compact, confluence, convenient, concatenate, conjoin, combine, correct
cogn, gnos	to know	recognize, cognizant, diagnose, agnostic, incognito, prognosis
com, con	fully	complete, compel, conscious, condense, confess, confirm
contr, contra,	against, opposite	contradict, counteract, contravene, contrary,

counter		counterspy, contrapuntal
cord, cor, cardi	heart	cordial, concord, discord, courage, encourage
corp	body	corporation, corporal punishment, corpse, corpulent, corpus luteum
cort	correct	escort, cortage
cosm	universe, world	cosmos, microcosm, cosmopolitan, cosmonaut
cour, cur, curr, curs	run, course	occur, excursion, discourse, courier, course
crat, cracy	rule	autocrat, aristocrat, theocracy, technocracy
cre, cresc, cret, crease	grow	create, crescent, accretion, increase
crea	create	creature, recreation, creation
cred	believe	creed, credo, credence, credit, credulous, incredulous, incredible
cresc, cret, crease, cru	rise, grow	crescendo, concrete, increase, decrease, accrue
crit	separate, choose	critical, criterion, hypocrite
cur, curs	run	current, concurrent, concur, incur, recur, occur, courier, precursor, cursive
cura	care	curator, curative, manicure
cycl, cyclo	wheel, circle, circular	Cyclops, unicycle, bicycle, cyclone, cyclic
de-	from, down, away, to do the opposite, reverse, against	detach, deploy, derange, decrease, deodorize, devoid, deflate, degenerate
dec, deca	ten, ten times	decimal, decade, decalogue, decimate, decathlon
dec, dign	suitable	decent decorate dignity
dei, div	God	divinity, divine, deity, divination, deify
dem, demo	people, populace, population	democracy, demography, demagogue, epidemic
dent, dont	tooth	dental, denture, orthodontist, periodontal
derm	skin, covering	hypodermic, dermatology, epidermis, taxidermy
di-, dy-	two, twice, double	divide, diverge, diglycerides
dia	through, across, between	diameter, diagonal, dialogue dialect,

		dialectic, diagnosis, diachronic
dic, dict, dit	say, speak	dictation, dictionary, dictate, dictator, Dictaphone, edict, predict, verdict, contradict, benediction
dis, dif	not, opposite of, reverse, separate, deprive of, away	dismiss, differ, disallow, disperse, dissuade, divide, disconnect, disproportion, disrespect, distemper, disarray
dit	give	credit, audit
doc, doct	teach, prove	docile, doctor, doctrine, document, dogma, indoctrinate
domin	master, that which is under control	dominate, dominion, predominant, domain
don	give	donate, condone
dorm	sleep	dormant, dormitory
dox	thought, opinion, praise	orthodox, heterodox, paradox, doxology
-drome	run, step	syndrome, aerodrome, velodrome
duc, duct	to lead, pull	produce, abduct, product, transducer, viaduct, aqueduct, induct, deduct, reduce, induce
dura	hard, lasting	durable, duration, endure
dynam	power	dynamo, dynamic, dynamite, hydrodynamics
dys-	bad, abnormal, difficult, impaired, unfavorable	dysfunctional, dyslexia, dyspathy
e-	not, missing, out, fully, away, computer network related	emit, embed, eternal, ether, erase, email, e-tailer
ec-	out of, outside	echo, eclipse, eclectic, ecesis, ecstasy, exzema
eco-	household, environment, relating to ecology or economy	ecology, economize, ecospheres, ecomanagement
ecto-	outside, external	ectomorph, ectoderm, ectoplasm
-ed	Verb: past tense	dressed, faded, patted, closed, introduced
-ed	Adjective: having the quality or characteristics of	winged, moneyed, dogged, tiered
-en	Verb: to cause to become	lengthen, moisten, sharpen
-en	Adjective: material	golden, woolen, silken

en-, em-	put into, make, provide with, surround with	enamor, embolden, enslave, empower, entangle
-ence, -ency	Noun: action or process, quality or state	reference, emergency, dependence, eminence, latency
end-	inside, within	endorse, endocardial, endergonic, endoskeleton, endoscope, endogenous
epi-	upon, close to, over, after, altered	epicenter, epicarp, epilogue, epigone, epidiorite
equi-	equal	equidistant, equilateral, equilibrium, equinox, equation, equator
-er, -ier	Adjective: comparative	better, brighter, sooner, hotter, happier
-er, -or	Noun: person or thing that does something	flyer, reporter, player, member, fryer, collector, concentrator
-er, -or	Verb: action	ponder, dishonor, clamor
erg	work, effect	energy, erg, allergy, ergometer, ergograph, ergophobia
-ery	collective qualities, art, practice, trade, collection, state, condition	snobbery, bakery, geenery, gallery, slavery
-es, -ies	Noun: plural of most nouns ending in -ch, -s, -sh, -o and -z and some in -f and -y	passes, glasses, ladies, heroes
-es, -ies	Verb: third person singular present indicative of verbs that end in -ch, -s, -sh, - and some in -y	blesses, hushes, fizzes, defies
-ess	female	actress, goddess, poetess
-est, -iest	Adjective or Adverb: superlative	latest, strongest, luckiest, lyingest
ev-, et-	time, age	medieval, eternal
ex-	out of, away from, lacking, former	exit, exhale, exclusive, exceed, explosion, ex-mayor
exter-, extra-, extro-	outside of, beyond	external, extrinsic, extraordinary, extrapolate, extraneous, extrovert
fa, fess	speak	fable, fabulous, fame, famous, confess,

		profess
fac, fact, fec, fect, fic, fas, fea	do, make	difficult, fashion, feasible, feature, factory, fact, effect, manufacture, amplification, confection
fall, fals	deceive	fallacy, falsify, fallacious
femto	quadrillionth	femtosecond
fer	bear, carry	ferry, coniferous, fertile, defer, infer, refer, transfer
fic, feign, fain, fit, feat	shape, make, fashion	fiction, faint, feign
fid	belief, faith	confide, diffident, fidelity
fid, fide, feder	faith, trust	confidante, fidelity, confident, infidelity, infidel, federal, confederacy, semper fi
fig	shape, form	figurem, effigy, figure, figment
fila, fili	thread	filigree, filament, filter, filet, filibuster
fin	end, ended, finished	final, finite, finish, confine, fine, refine, define, finale
fix	repair, attach	fix, fixation, fixture, affix, prefix, suffix
flex, flect	bend	flex, reflex, flexible, flexor, inflexibility, reflect, deflect, circumflex
flict	strike	affliction, conflict, inflict
flu, fluc, fluv, flux	flow	influence, fluid, flue, flush, fluently, fluctuate, reflux, influx
-fold	Adverb: in a manner of, marked by	fourfold
for, fore	before	forecast, fortune, foresee
forc, fort	strength, strong	effort, fort, forte, fortifiable, fortify, forte, fortitude
form	shape, resemble	form, format, conform, formulate, perform, formal, formula
fract, frag, frai	break	fracture, infraction, fragile, fraction, refract, frail
fuge	flee	subterfuge, refuge, centrifuge
-ful	Noun: an amount or quantity that fills	mouthful
-ful	Adjective: having, giving, marked by	fanciful

fuse	pour	confuse, transfuse
-fy	make, form into	falsify, dandify
gam	marriage	bigamy, monogamy, polygamy
gastr, gastro	stomach	gastric, gastronomic, gastritis, gastropod
gen	kind	generous
gen	birth, race, produce	genesis, genetics, eugenics, genealogy, generate, genetic, antigen, pathogen
geo	earth	geometry, geography, geocentric, geology
germ	vital part	germination, germ, germane
gest	carry, bear	congest, gestation
giga	billion	gigabyte, gigaflop
gin	careful	gingerly
gloss, glot	tongue	glossary, polyglot, epiglottis
glu, glo	lump, bond, glue	glue, agglutinate, conglomerate
gor	to gather, to bring together	category, categorize
grad, gress, gree	to gather, to bring together, step, go	grade, degree, progress, gradual, graduate, egress
graph, gram, graf	write, written, draw	graph, graphic, autograph, photography, graphite, telegram, polygraph, grammar, biography, lithograph, graphic
grat	pleasing	congratulate, gratuity, grateful, ingrate
grav	heavy, weighty	grave, gravity, aggravate, gravitate
greg	herd	gregarious, congregation, segregate, gregarian
hale, heal	make whole, sound	inhale, exhale, heal, healthy, healthiness
helio	sun	heliograph, heliotrope, heliocentric
hema, hemo	blood	hemorrhage, hemoglobin, hemophilia, hemostat
her, here, hes	stick	adhere, cohere, cohesion, inherent, hereditary, hesitate
hetero	other, different	heterodox, heterogeneous, heterosexual, heterodyne
hex, ses, sex	six	hexagon, hexameter, sestet, sextuplets
homo	same	homogenize, homosexual, homonym, homophone
hum, human	earth, ground, man	humus, exhume, humane

hydr, hydra, hydro	water	dehydrate, hydrant, hydraulic, hydraulics, hydrogen, hydrophobia
hyper	over, above	hyperactive, hypertensive, hyperbolic, hypersensitive, hyperventilate, hyperkinetic
hypn	sleep	hypnosis, hypnotherapy
-ia	Noun: names, diseases	phobia
-ian, an	Noun: related to, one that is	pedestrian, human
-iatry	Noun: art of healing	psychiatry
-ic	Adjective: quality, relation	generic
-ic, ics	Noun: related to the arts and sciences	arithmetic, economics
-ice	Noun: act	malice
-ify	Verb: cause	specify
ignis	fire	ignite, igneous, ignition
-ile	Adjective: having the qualities of	projectile
in, im	into, on, near, towards	instead, import
in, im, il, ir	not	illegible, irresolute, inaction, inviolate, innocuous, intractable, innocent, impregnable, impossible, imposter
infra	beneath	infrared, infrastructure
-ing	Noun: material made for, activity, result of an activity	flooring, swimming, building
-ing	Verb: present participle	depicting
-ing	Adjective: activity	cohering
inter	between, among	international, intercept, interject, intermission, internal, intermittent,
intra	within, during, between layers, underneath	intramural, intranet, intranatal
intro	into, within, inward	interoffice, introvert, introspection, introduce
-ion	Noun: condition or action	abduction
-ish	Adjective: having the character of	newish

-ism	Noun: doctrine, belief, action or conduct	formalism
-ist	Noun: person or member	podiatrist
-ite	Noun: state or quality	graphite
-ity, ty	Noun: state or quality	lucidity, novelty
-ive	Noun: condition	native
-ive, -ative, -itive	Adjective: having the quality of	festive, cooperative, sensitive
-ize	Verb: cause	fantasize
jac, ject	throw	reject, eject, project, trajectory, interject, dejected, inject, ejaculate, adjacent
join, junct	join	adjoining, enjoin, juncture, conjunction, injunction, conjunction
judice	judge	prejudice
jug, junct, just	to join	junction, adjust, conjugal
juven	young	juvenile, rejuvenate
labor	work	laborious, belabor
lau, lav, lot, lut	wash	laundry, lavatory, lotion, ablution, dilute
lect, leg, lig	choose, gather, select, read	collect, legible, eligible
leg	law	legal, legislate, legislature, legitimize
-less	Adjective: without, missing	motiveless
levi	light	alleviate, levitate, levity
lex, leag, leg	law	legal, college, league
liber, liver	free	liberty, liberal, liberalize, deliverance
lide	strike	collide, nuclide
liter	letters	literary, literature, literal, alliteration, obliterate
loc, loco	place, area	location, locally, locality, allocate, locomotion
log, logo, ology	word, study, say, speech, reason, study	catalog, prologue, dialogue, zoology, logo
loqu, locut	talk, speak	eloquent, loquacious, colloquial, circumlocution
luc, lum, lun, lus, lust	light	translucent, luminary, luster, luna, illuminate, illustrate

lude	play	prelude
-ly	Adverb: in the manner of	fluently
macr-, macer	lean	emaciated, meager
magn	great	magnify, magnificent, magnanimous, magnate, magnitude, magnum
main	strength, foremost	mainstream, mainsail, domain, remain
mal	bad, badly	malformation, maladjusted, dismal, malady, malcontent, malfunction, malfeasance, maleficent
man, manu	hand, make, do	manual, manage, manufacture, manacle, manicure, manifest, maneuver, emancipate, management
mand	command	mandatory, remand, mandate
mania	madness	mania, maniac, kleptomania, pyromania
mar, mari, mer	sea, pool	marine, marsh, maritime, mermaid
matri	mother	matrimony, maternal, matriarchate, matron
medi	half, middle, between, halfway	mediate, medieval, Mediterranean, mediocre, medium
mega	great, million	megaphone, megaton, megaflop, megalomaniac, megabyte, megalopolis
mem	recall, remember	memo, commemoration, memento, memoir, memorable
ment	mind	mental, mention
-ment	Noun: condition or result	document
meso	middle	mesomorph, mesoamerica, mesosphere
meta	beyond, change	metaphor, metamorphosis, metabolism, metahistorical, metainformation
meter	measure	meter, voltammeter, barometer, thermometer
metr	admeasure, apportion	metrics, asymmetric, parametric, telemetry
micro	small, millionth	microscope, microfilm, microcard, microwave, micrometer, microvolt
migra	wander	migrate, emigrant, immigrate
mill, kilo	thousand	millennium, kilobyte, kiloton
milli	thousandth	millisecond, milligram, millivolt
min	little, small	minute, minor, minuscule
mis	wrong, bad, badly	misconduct, misinform, misinterpret,

		mispronounce, misnomer, mistake, misogynist
mit, miss	send	emit, remit, submit, admit, commit, permit, transmit, omit, intermittent, mission, missile
mob, mov, mot	move	motion, remove, mobile, motor
mon	warn, remind	monument, admonition, monitor, premonition
mono	one	monopoly, monotype, monologue, mononucleosis, monorail, monotheist,
mor, mort	mortal, death	mortal, immortal, mortality, mortician, mortuary
morph	shape, form	amorphous, dimorphic, metamorphosis, morphology, polymorphic, morpheme, amorphous
multi	many, much	multifold, multilingual, multiped, multiply, multitude, multipurpose, multinational
nano	billionth	nanosecond, nanobucks
nasc, nat, gnant, nai	to be born	nascent, native, pregnant, naive
nat, nasc	to be from, to spring forth	innate, natal, native, renaissance
neo	new	Neolithic, nouveau riche, neologism, neophyte, neonate
-ness	Noun: state, condition, quality	kindness
neur	nerve	neuritis, neuropathic, neurologist, neural, neurotic
nom	law, order	autonomy, astronomy, gastronomy, economy
nom, nym	name	nominate, synonym
nomen, nomin	name	nomenclature, nominate, ignominious
non	nine	nonagon
non	not	nonferrous, nonsense, nonabrasive, nondescript
nov	new	novel, renovate, novice, nova, innovate
nox, noc	night	nocturnal, equinox, noctiluent
numer	number	numeral, numeration, enumerate, innumerable
numisma	coin	numismatics

ob, oc, of, op	toward, against, in the way	oppose, occur, offer, obtain
oct	eight	octopus, octagon, octogenarian, octave
oligo	few, little	Oligocene, oligosaccharide, oligotrophic, oligarchy
omni	all, every	omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, omnivorous
onym	name	anonymous, pseudonym, antonym, synonym
oper	work	operate, cooperate, opus
-or	Noun: condition or activity	valor, honor, humor, minor
ortho	straight, correct	orthodox, orthodontist, orthopedic, unorthodox
-ory	Noun: place for, serves for	territory, rectory
-ous, -eous, -ose, -ious	Adjective: having the quality of, relating to	adventurous, courageous, verbose, fractious
over	excessive, above	overwork, overall, overwork
pac	peace	pacifist, pacify, pacific ocean
pair, pare	arrange, assemblage, two	repair, impair, compare, prepare
paleo	old	Paleozoic, Paleolithic, paleomagnetism, paleopsychology
pan	all	Pan-American, pan-African, panacea, pandemonium (place of all the demons),
para	beside	paradox, paraprofessional, paramedic, paraphrase, parachute
pat, pass, path	feel, suffer	patient, passion, sympathy, pathology
pater, patr	father	paternity, patriarch, patriot, patron, patronize
path, pathy	feeling, suffering	pathos, sympathy, antipathy, apathy, telepathy
ped, pod	foot	pedal, impede, pedestrian, centipede, tripod, podiatry, antipode, podium
pedo	child	orthopedic, pedagogue, pediatrics
pel, puls	drive, push, urge	compel, dispel, expel, repel, propel, pulse, impulse, pulsate, compulsory, expulsion, repulsive

pend, pens, pond	hang, weigh	pendant, pendulum, suspend, appendage, pensive, append
per	through, intensive	persecute, permit, perspire, perforate, persuade
peri	around	periscope, perimeter, perigee, periodontal
phage	eat	macrophage, bacteriophage
phan, phas, phen, fan, phant, fant	show, make visible	phantom, fantasy
phe	speak	blaspheme, cipher, phenomenon, philosopher
phil	love	philosopher, philanthropy, philharmonic, bibliophile
phlegma	inflammation	phlegm, phlegmatic
phobia, phobos	fear	phobia, claustrophobia, acrophobia, aquaphobia, ergophobia, homophobia
phon	sound	telephone, phonics, phonograph, phonetic, homophone, microphone, symphony, euphonious
phot, photo	light	photograph, photoelectric, photogenic, photosynthesis, photon
pico	trillionth	picofarad, picocurie, picovolt
pict	paint, show, draw	picture, depict
plac, plais	please	placid, placebo, placate, complacent
pli, ply	fold	reply, implicate, ply
plore	cry out, wail	implore, exploration, deploring
plu, plur, plus	more	plural, pluralist, plus
pneuma, pneumon	breath	pneumatic, pneumonia,
pod	foot, feet	podiatry, tripod
poli	city	metropolis, police, politics, Indianapolis, megalopolis, acropolis
poly	many	polytheist, polygon, polygamy, polymorphous
pon, pos, pound	place, put	postpone, component, opponent, proponent, expose, impose, deposit, posture, position, expound, impound

pop	people	population, populous, popular
port	carry	porter, portable, transport, report, export, import, support, transportation
portion	part, share	portion, proportion
post	after, behind	postpone, postdate
pot	power	potential, potentate, impotent
pre, pur	before	precede
prehendere	seize, grasp	apprehend, comprehend, comprehensive, prehensile
prin, prim, prime	first	primacy, prima donna, primitive, primary, primal, primeval, prince, principal
pro	for, forward	propel
proto	first	prototype, protocol, protagonist, protozoan, Proterozoic, protoindustrial
psych	mind, soul	psyche, psychiatry, psychology, psychosis
punct	point, dot	punctual, punctuation, puncture, acupuncture, punctuation
pute	think	dispute, computer
quat, quad	four	quadrangle, quadruplets
quint, penta	five	quintet, quintuplets, pentagon, pentane, pentameter
quip	ship	equip, equipment
quir, quis, quest, quer	seek, ask	query, inquire, exquisite, quest
re	back, again	report, realign, retract, revise, regain
reg, recti	straighten	regiment, regular, rectify, correct, direct, rectangle
retro	backwards	retrorocket, retrospect, retrogression, retroactive
ri, ridi, risi	laughter	deride, ridicule, ridiculous, derision, risible
rog, roga	ask	prerogative, interrogation, derogatory
rupt	break	rupture, interrupt, abrupt, disrupt, ruptible
sacr, sanc, secr	sacred	sacred, sacrosanct, sanction, consecrate, desecrate
salv, salu	safe, healthy	salvation, salvage, salutation
sanct	holy	sanctify, sanctuary, sanction, sanctimonious, sacrosanct

sat, satis	enough	satient, saturate, satisfy
sci, scio, scientia	know	science, conscious, omniscient, cognocienti
scope	see, watch	telescope, microscope, kaleidoscope, periscope, stethoscope
scrib, script	write	scribe, scribble, inscribe, describe, subscribe, prescribe, manuscript
se	apart, move away from	secede
sect, sec	cut	intersect, transect, dissect, secant, section
sed, sess, sid	sit	sediment, session, obsession, possess, preside, president, reside, subside
semi	half, partial	semifinal, semiconscious, semiannual, semimonthly, semicircle
sen, scen	old, grow old	senior, senator, senile, senescence, evanescent
sent, sens	feel, think	sentiment, consent, resent, dissent, sentimental, sense, sensation, sensitive, sensory, dissension
sept	seven	septet, septennial
sequ, secu, sue	follow	sequence, consequence, sequel, subsequent, prosecute, consecutive, second, ensue, pursue
serv	save, serve, keep	servant, service, subservient, servitude, preserve, conserve, reservation, deserve, conservation, observe
-ship	Noun: status, condition	relationship, friendship
sign, signi	sign, mark, seal	signal, signature, design, insignia, significant
simil, simul	like, resembling	similar, assimilate, simulate, simulacrum, simultaneous
sist, sta, stit	stand, withstand, make up	assist, insist, persist, circumstance, stamina, status, state, static, stable, stationary, substitute
soci	to join, companions	sociable, society
sol, solus	alone	solo, soliloquy, solitaire, solitude, solitary, isolate
solv, solu, solut	loosen, explain	solvent, solve, absolve, resolve, soluble, solution, resolution, resolute, dissolve, absolution

somn	sleep	insomnia, somnambulist
soph	wise	sophomore (wise fool), philosophy, sophisticated
spec, spect, spi, spic	look, see	specimen, specific, spectator, spectacle, aspect, speculate, inspect, respect, prospect, retrospective, introspective, expect, conspicuous
sper	render favorable	prosper
sphere	ball, sphere	sphere, stratosphere, hemisphere, spheroid
spir	breath	spirit, conspire, inspire, aspire, expire, perspire, respiration
stand, stant, stab, stat, stan, sti, sta, st, stead	stand	stature, establish, stance
-ster	person	mobster, monster
strain, strict, string, stige	bind, pull, draw tight	stringent, strict, restrict, constrict, restrain, boa constrictor
stru, struct, stroy, stry	build	construe, structure, construct, instruct, obstruct, destruction, destroy, industry, ministry
sub, suc, suf, sup, sur, sus	under, below, from, secretly, instead of	sustain, survive, support, suffice, succeed, submerge, submarine, substandard, subnormal, subvert
sume, sump	take, use, waste	consume, assume, sump, presumption
super, supra	over, above	superior, suprarenal, superscript, supernatural, superimpose, supercede
syn, sym	together, at the same time	sympathy, synthesis, synchronous, syndicate
tact, tang, tag, tig, ting	touch	tactile, contact, intact, intangible, tangible, contagious, contiguous, contingent
tain, ten, tent, tin	hold, keep, have	retain, continue, content, tenacious
tect, teg	cover	detect, protect, tegular, tegument
tele	distance, far, from afar	telephone, telegraph, telegram, telescope, television, telephoto, telecast, telepathy, telepathy
tem, tempo	time	tempo, temporary, extemporaneously, contemporary, pro tem, temporal

ten, tin, tain	hold	tenacious, tenant, tenure, untenable, detention, retentive, content, pertinent, continent, obstinate, contain, abstain, pertain, detain
tend, tent, tens	stretch, strain	tendency, extend, intend, contend, pretend, superintend, tender, extent, tension, pretense
tera	trillion	terabyte, teraflop
term	end, boundary, limit	exterminate, terminal
terr, terra	earth	terrain, terrarium, territory, terrestrial
test	to bear witness	testament, detest, testimony, attest, testify
the, theo	God, a god	monotheism, polytheism, atheism, theology
therm	heat	thermometer, theorem, thermal, thermos bottle, thermostat, hypothermia
thesis, thet	place, put	antithesis, hypothesis, synthesis, epithet
tire	draw, pull	attire, retire, entire
tom	cut	atom (not cutable), appendectomy, tonsillectomy, dichotomy, anatomy
tor, tors, tort	twist	torture, retort, extort, distort, contort, torsion, tortuous, torturous
tox	poison	toxic, intoxicate, antitoxin
tract, tra, trai, treat	drag, draw, pull	attract, tractor, traction, extract, retract, protract, detract, subtract, contract, intractable
trans	across, beyond, change	transform, transoceanic, transmit, transportation, transducer
tri	three	tripod, triangle, trinity, trilateral
trib	pay, bestow	tribute, contribute, attribute, retribution, tributary
tribute	give	contribute, distribute, tributary
turbo	disturb	turbulent, disturb, turbid, turmoil
typ	print	type, prototype, typical, typography, typewriter, typology, typify
ultima	last	ultimate, ultimatum
umber, umbraticum	shadow	umbra, penumbra, (take) umbrage, adumbrate
un	not, against, opposite	unceasing, unequal
uni	one	uniform, unilateral, universal, unity,

		unanimous, unite, unison, unicorn
-ure	Noun: act, condition, process, function	exposure, conjecture, measure
vac	empty	vacate, vacuum, evacuate, vacation, vacant, vacuous
vade	go	evade, invader
vale, vali, valu	strength, worth	equivalent, valiant, validity, evaluate, value, valor
veh, vect	to carry	vector, vehicle, convection, vehement
ven, vent	come	convene, intervene, venue, convenient, avenue, circumvent, invent, convent, venture, event, advent, prevent
ver, veri	true	very, aver, verdict, verity, verify, verisimilitude
verb, verv	word	verify, veracity, verbalize, verve
vert, vers	turn, change	convert, revert, advertise, versatile, vertigo, invert, reversion, extravert, introvert, diversion, introvert, convertible, reverse, controversy
vi	way	viable, vibrate, vibrant
vic, vicis	change, substitute	vicarious, vicar, vicissitude
vict, vinc	conquer	victor, evict, convict, convince, invincible
vid, vis	see	video, evident, provide, providence, visible, revise, supervise, vista, visit, vision, review, indivisible
viv, vita, vivi	alive, life	revive, survive, vivid, vivacious, vitality, vivisection, vital, vitamins, revitalize
voc, voke	call	vocation, avocation, convocation, invocation, evoke, provoke, revoke, advocate, provocative, vocal
vol	will	malevolent, benevolent, volunteer, volition
volcan	fire	volcano, vulcanize, Vulcan
volv, volt, vol	turn about, roll	revolve, voluble, voluminous, convolution, revolt, evolution
vor	eat greedily	voracious, carnivorous, herbivorous, omnivorous, devour
-ward	Adverb: in a direction or	homeward

	manner	
-wise	Adverb: in the manner of, with regard to	timewise, clockwise, bitwise
with	against	withhold, without, withdraw, forthwith
-y	Noun: state, condition, result of an activity	society, victory
-y	Adjective: marked by, having	hungry, angry, smeary, teary
zo	animal	zoo (zoological garden), zoology, zodiac, protozoan

The most common prefixes



prefix	meaning	examples
<i>anti-</i>	against/opposed to	<i>anti-government, anti-racist, anti-war</i>
<i>auto-</i>	self	<i>autobiography, automobile</i>
<i>de-</i>	reverse or change	<i>de-classify, decontaminate, demotivate</i>
<i>dis-</i>	reverse or remove	<i>disagree, displeasure, disqualify</i>
<i>down-</i>	reduce or lower	<i>downgrade, downhearted</i>
<i>extra-</i>	beyond	<i>extraordinary, extraterrestrial</i>
<i>hyper-</i>	extreme	<i>hyperactive, hypertension</i>
<i>il-, im-, in-, ir-</i>	not	<i>illegal, impossible, insecure, irregular</i>
<i>inter-</i>	between	<i>interactive, international</i>
<i>mega-</i>	very big, important	<i>megabyte, mega-deal, megaton</i>
<i>mid-</i>	middle	<i>midday, midnight, mid-October</i>
<i>mis-</i>	incorrectly, badly	<i>misaligned, mislead, misspelt</i>
<i>non-</i>	not	<i>non-payment, non-smoking</i>
<i>over-</i>	too much	<i>overcook, overcharge, overrate</i>
<i>out-</i>	go beyond	<i>outdo, out-perform, outrun</i>
<i>post-</i>	after	<i>post-election, post-war</i>
<i>pre-</i>	before	<i>prehistoric, pre-war</i>
<i>pro-</i>	in favour of	<i>pro-communist, pro-democracy</i>
<i>re-</i>	again	<i>reconsider, redo, rewrite</i>
<i>semi-</i>	half	<i>semicircle, semi-retired</i>
<i>sub-</i>	under, below	<i>submarine, sub-Saharan</i>
<i>super-</i>	above, beyond	<i>super-hero, supermodel</i>

<i>tele-</i>	at a distance	<i>television, telepathic</i>
<i>trans-</i>	across	<i>transatlantic, transfer</i>
<i>ultra-</i>	extremely	<i>ultra-compact, ultrasound</i>
<i>un-</i>	remove, reverse, not	<i>undo, unpack, unhappy</i>
<i>under-</i>	less than, beneath	<i>undercook, underestimate</i>
<i>up-</i>	make or move higher	<i>upgrade, uphill</i>

SUFFIXES



A **suffix** is a group of letters placed at the **end** of a word to make a **new** word. A suffix can make a new word in one of two ways:

1. **inflectional** (grammatical): for example, changing singular to plural (dog → ~~d~~ogs), or changing present tense to past tense (walk → ~~w~~walked). In this case, the basic meaning of the word does not change.
2. **derivational** (the new word has a new meaning, "derived" from the original word): for example, teach → ~~t~~eacher or care → ~~c~~areful

Suffixes: spelling

Often, the suffix causes a spelling change to the original word. In the table above, the *e* ending of *complicate* and *create* disappears when the *-ions* suffix is added. Other examples of spelling changes include:

1. *beauty, duty* + *-ful* → *beautiful, dutiful* (*-y* changes to *i*)
2. *heavy, ready* + *-ness* → *heaviness, readiness* (*-y* changes to *i*)
3. *able, possible* + *-ity* → *ability, possibility* (*-le* changes to *il*)
4. *permit, omit* + *-ion* → *permission, omission* (*-t* changes to *ss*)

Common suffixes and examples

Noun suffixes



suffix	examples of nouns
<i>-age</i>	<i>baggage, village, postage</i>
<i>-al</i>	<i>arrival, burial, deferral</i>
<i>-ance/-ence</i>	<i>reliance, defence, insistence</i>
<i>-dom</i>	<i>boredom, freedom, kingdom</i>
<i>-ee</i>	<i>employee, payee, trainee</i>

<i>-er/-or</i>	<i>driver, writer, director</i>
<i>-hood</i>	<i>brotherhood, childhood, neighbourhood</i>
<i>-ism</i>	<i>capitalism, Marxism, socialism (philosophies)</i>
<i>-ist</i>	<i>capitalist, Marxist, socialist (followers of philosophies)</i>
<i>-ity/-ty</i>	<i>brutality, equality, cruelty</i>
<i>-ment</i>	<i>amazement, disappointment, parliament</i>
<i>-ness</i>	<i>happiness, kindness, usefulness</i>
<i>-ry</i>	<i>entry, ministry, robbery</i>
<i>-ship</i>	<i>friendship, membership, workmanship</i>
<i>-sion/-tion/-xion</i>	<i>expression, population, complexion</i>

Adjective suffixes



suffix	examples of adjectives
<i>-able/-ible</i>	<i>drinkable, portable, flexible</i>
<i>-al</i>	<i>brutal, formal, postal</i>
<i>-en</i>	<i>broken, golden, wooden</i>
<i>-ese</i>	<i>Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese</i>
<i>-ful</i>	<i>forgetful, helpful, useful</i>
<i>-i</i>	<i>Iraqi, Pakistani, Yemeni</i>
<i>-ic</i>	<i>classic, Islamic, poetic</i>
<i>-ish</i>	<i>British, childish, Spanish</i>
<i>-ive</i>	<i>active, passive, productive</i>
<i>-ian</i>	<i>Canadian, Malaysian, Peruvian</i>
<i>-less</i>	<i>homeless, hopeless, useless</i>
<i>-ly</i>	<i>daily, monthly, yearly</i>
<i>-ous</i>	<i>cautious, famous, nervous</i>
<i>-y</i>	<i>cloudy, rainy, windy</i>

Verb suffixes

suffix	examples of verbs
<i>-ate</i>	<i>complicate, dominate, irritate</i>
<i>-en</i>	<i>harden, soften, shorten</i>
<i>-ify</i>	<i>beautify, clarify, identify</i>

-ise/-ize *economise, realise, industrialize* (*-ise* is most common in British English; *-ize* is most common in American English)



Adverb suffixes

suffix	examples of adverbs
<i>-ly</i>	<i>calmly, easily, quickly</i>
<i>-ward(s)</i>	<i>downwards, homeward(s), upwards</i>
<i>-wise</i>	<i>anti-clockwise, clockwise, edgewise</i>

COMMONLY USED

A suffix is an affix that is added to the end of a word that conditions its usage or meaning. The opposite of suffix is prefix.

Suffix	General Meaning	Example
<i>-agogy</i>	leading	pedagogy , demagogy
<i>-archy</i>	rule, leadership	gynarchy , anarchy
<i>-cele, -coele, -coel</i>	body cavity	mucocoel or mucocoele
<i>-cele</i>	tumor, hernia	hydatidocele
<i>-centesis</i>	puncturing	amniocentesis , rachicentesis
<i>-chondrion</i>	small grainlike structure	mitochondrion
<i>-cide</i>	murder, killing agent	suicide , vespacide, regicide
<i>-cracy</i>	rule, government	kakistocracy , democracy , androcracy
<i>-cycle</i>	circle, cycle, unit of radio frequency	epicycle , hydrocycle
<i>-ectasia, -ectasis</i>	stretching out	brochiectasis , telangiectasia
<i>-ectomy</i>	surgical removal	vasectomy
<i>-emesis</i>	vomiting	hematemesis , hyperemesis
<i>-emia</i>	blood condition	leukemia , anaemia
<i>-enchyma</i>	cellular tissue	mesenchyma , karyenchyma
<i>-ess</i>	female	actress , waitress ,

		stewardess
-esthesia, -esthesia	sensation, feeling	synesthesia, kinesthesia
-fugal	fuge, driving or travelling away from, expelling	centrifugal
-ful	full of, having some or much	hopeful, useful
-hedron	geometric solid	icosahedron, tetrahedron
-holic	love, addiction	alcoholic
-ic		
-id	skin rash	syphilid
-ism	doctrine, act, practice, condition	Protestantism, alcoholism, Buddhism, southernism
-ist	person	dentist
-itis	disease, inflammation	hepatitis, gingivitis
-itude		attitude, certitude
-ium	metallic element (exception: helium)	sodium, Calcium
-kinesis	movement (ability thereof)	telekinesis
-less	lack of	homeless, useless
-ly	-like, having the attributes of; In modern English, primarily changes adjectives to adverbs; also changes some nouns to adjectives and some (past-tense) verbs to adverbs	quick(adj) > quickly(adv), state(n) > stately(adj), abashed(v) > abashedly(adv)
-mania	an irrational but irresistible motive for a belief or action	kleptomania, megalomania, mythomania
-ography or -ogram	writing, description	stenography, geography, ideogram
-oid	resembling	solenoid, hominoid
-ology	study, science	planetology, thyroidology, phthysiology
-omics	area of biology	proteomics
-onomy	knowledge of	astronomy
-onym	name, word	antonym, consonym, heteronym
-osis	process, action	mitosis, osmosis
-osis	formation	ostosis
-osis	diseased condition	psychosis

-phagy, -phagia	eating	monophagy
-philia	attraction	hemophilia
-phobia	fear	acrophobia , mysophobia
-phone	sound, audio	telephone , homophone
-science	knowing	omniscience
-scope	from Greek <i>skopos</i> , view; instrument for viewing and observing spaces	microscope , telescope
-ship	circle, state of being	friendship , relationship
-stan	land, country	Afghanistan
-tropism	to turn	phototropism
-us	inflammation	ulcus (ulcer)
-ward	direction	southward
-wise	direction	clockwise



Rules for Adding Suffixesto Root words

**Notes*

- *not all suffixes can be used with all root words*
- *not a complete list of all suffixes*

Suffix begins with a vowel	Suffix begins with a consonant	-ing	-y
-able/ible;	-ful; -less; -ly;		
-ance/ence; -ed; -en;	-ment;		
-er; -est; -ist; -ion	-ness; -tion		
-ise/ize; -ity; -ive			

Root word ends in aconsonant + "y"	Change "y" to "i", then + "suffix"	Change "y" to "i", then + "suffix"	+ "ing"
<i>eg. - rely funny fancy try</i>	<i>tried reliable</i>	<i>merciless</i>	relying
<i>mercymarry merry</i>	<i>funnier</i>	<i>merriment</i>	marrying
<i>noisy</i>	<i>fanciest</i>	<i>noisily</i>	trying
<i>ordinary apply</i>			

Root word ends in a vowel + "y"	+ "suffix"	+ "suffix"	+ "ing"
	<i>player keyed</i>	<i>toyleless</i>	<i>obeying</i>

eg.- <u>play</u> toy <u>key</u> employ enjoy obey portray	employable	enjoyment	enjoying playing	
Root word ends in silent "e"	remove "e", then + "suffix"	+ "suffix"	remove "e", then + "ing"	remove "e", then + "y"
eg. - <u>infla</u> te <u>re</u> mo <u>ve</u> <u>de</u> co <u>ra</u> te <u>hope</u> <u>appreciate</u> <u>bare</u> <u>excite</u> <u>encourage</u> <u>reduce</u> <u>taste</u> <u>race</u>	inflatable appreciative remover decoration racist	hopeful barely excitement reduction tasteless	encouraging hoping decorating reducing	tasty
Root word ends in 2 consonants	+ "suffix"	+ "suffix"	+ "ing"	+ "y"
eg. - <u>reach</u> <u>perform</u> <u>possess</u> <u>jump</u> <u>bright</u> <u>collect</u> <u>help</u> <u>soft</u> <u>test</u>	performance possessive tester collectable soften brightest reached	helpful softness brightly helpless	reaching jumping performing	jumpy testy
Root word ends in a <u>short</u> vowel sound + consonant	double last letter, then + "suffix"	+ "suffix"	double last letter, then + "ing"	double last letter, then + "y"
eg. <u>shop</u> <u>pin</u> <u>flat</u> <u>rim</u> <u>rot</u> <u>sad</u> <u>run</u> <u>bad</u> <u>fat</u> <u>hot</u> <u>sun</u> <u>mud</u>	shopped hotter/hottest flattenrunner	badly rimless sadness	pinning running rotting	fatty runny sunny muddy
Root word ends in a <u>long</u> vowel sound + consonant	+ "suffix"	+ "suffix"	+ "ing"	+ "y"
eg. <u>keep</u> <u>fair</u> <u>clean</u> <u>cream</u> <u>cheap</u> <u>boast</u> <u>soap</u> <u>seam</u>	cheaper fairer/fairest cleaner	boastful seamless fairly	keeping cleaning boasting	soapy creamy

EXAMPLES OF PREFIX AND SUFFIX

1. He was acting in a very **childish** way. (child)
2. She looked **unhappy** .She started to cry. (happy)
3. He passed his exam. He was **successful** for the second time. (succeed)
4. The team that he supported were able to win the **championship** . (champion)
5. I couldn't find any **weakness** in his theory. (weak)
6. He wants to be a **mathematician** when he grows up. (mathematics)
7. There were only a **handful** of people at the match. (hand)
8. The road was too narrow, so they had to **widen** it. (wide)
9. I think that you should **reconsider** your decision. It may not be the best thing to do.
(consider)
10. You need a **combination** of motivation, organization and hard work to realize your dreams.(combine)

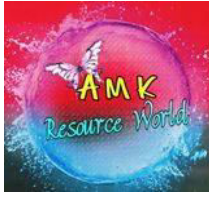
EXERCISE

Put the word in brackets into the correct form. You will have to use prefixes and/or suffixes.

1. He was sitting _____ in his seat on the train. (comfort)
2. There was a _____ light coming from the window. (green)
3. He was acting in a very _____ way. (child)
4. This word is very difficult to spell, and even worse, it's _____.
(pronounce)
5. He's lost his book again. I don't know where he has _____ it this time.
(place)
6. You shouldn't have done that! It was very _____ of you. (think)
7. He didn't pass his exam. He was _____ for the second time. (succeed)
8. Some of the shanty towns are dreadfully _____. (crowd)
9. The team that he supported were able to win the _____. (champion)
10. There is a very high _____ that they will be late. (likely)
11. I couldn't find any _____ in his theory. (weak)
12. He wants to be a _____ when he grows up. (mathematics)
13. You need to be a highly trained _____ to understand this report.
(economy)
14. There were only a _____ of people at the match. (hand)
15. She arrived late at work because she had _____. (sleep)
16. The road was too narrow, so they had to _____ it. (wide)
17. He was accused of _____ documents. (false)

18. They had to _____ the lion before they could catch it. (tranquil)
19. He needed to _____ the temperature. (regular)
20. I think that you should _____. It may not be the best thing to do.
(consider)
21. There was a three-hour _____ because of the strike. (stop)
22. You need a _____ of motivation, organization and revision to learn English. (combine)
23. I try not to go to the supermarket at 5pm because it's _____. (practice)
24. It is very _____ to run air-conditioning with the door open. (economy)
25. His _____ has been expected for the last half an hour. (arrive)
26. She looked at her _____ in the mirror. (reflect)
27. I told him my plan but he wasn't very _____. (receive)
28. She had no _____ of going to see him. (intend)
29. He spent half an hour _____ himself with the building. (familiar)
30. Failing her driving test was a great _____ to her. (appoint)
31. He decided to study _____ at university. (journal)
32. The film was _____ good. (surprise)
33. There was the need for _____ construction when the fighting stopped.
(war)
34. I don't like him at all. He's so _____. (satisfy)
35. The company has over 500 _____. (employ)
36. The new manager was very efficient and _____. (business)
37. It really isn't mine. I think that you are _____. (take)
38. The rate of _____ in Brazil has been rising steadily. (employ)
39. With the real plan, the rate of _____ in Brazil has fallen. (inflate)
40. She looked at him _____, and started to cry. (happy)
41. The party was _____, everything went wrong. (disaster)
42. The film was so _____ that we left before the end. (bore)
43. The film was terrible, I felt really _____. (bore)
44. I think that there has been a _____, I didn't order this. (understand)
45. The bacteria are so small that you need a _____ to see them. (scope)
46. Have you seen that new _____? He's very funny. (comedy)
47. The event was totally _____. It was terrible. (organise)
48. I arrived late for work because I had _____. (sleep)
49. There is a small _____ explaining the new traffic code. (book)
50. He was _____. He wouldn't change his mind. (compromise)

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