

Affixes

PREFIXES

An affix added to the front of a base word (root word).

Common Prefixes

re- (again): redo, retell

pre- (before): preheat, presale, prevent

co- (together): coworker, copilot, coanchor

de- (from, remove): defrost, decode, destabilize

The "not" prefixes.

dis-: dislike, distrust, dissatisfied

il-: illegal, ill-mannered, illiterate

im-: improper, imperfect, impractical

in-: incorrect, inactive, insecure

ir-/ear/: irresponsible, irregular, irreplaceable

mal-: malfunction, malformed, malpractice

mis-: mistrust, misguided, mismatch

non-: nonstop, nonfood, nondairy

un-: unzip, unable, undo

counter-: counteract, counterculture, countermove

anti-: antifreeze, antibiotic, antismoking

Prefixes Telling Where

hyper- (over): hyperactive, hyperacidity, hyperexcited

hypo- (under): hypodermic, hypotension, hypothermia

inter-(between): interstate, interbank, internet

sub- (below): subnormal, subzero

super- (over): superhuman, supermarket

trans- (across): transatlantic, transpolar, transport

Prefixes Telling How Many or How Much

uni- (one): unicycle, unilateral, unisex

bi- (two): bicycle, biannual, biplane

tri- (three): tricycle, tricolor, triangle

quadr- (four): quadrangle, quadriplegic, quadrant

quin- (five): quintuplets, quintet, quintuplicate

dec- (ten): decade, decathlon, decalogue

centi- (hundred): centimeters, centipede, centennial

milli- (thousandth): millimeter, milliliter, milligram

mega- (million): megaton, megadose, "megabucks"

semi- (half): semicircle, semiannual, semitrailer

multi- (many): multisyllabic, multistage, multilingual

poly- (many): polysyllable, polygon, polytheism

micro- (very small): microscope, microbe, microchip

macro- (large): macroscopic, macroscale, macronutrient

mini- (small): minimum, minibike, miniskirt

maxi- (extra large): maximum, maximize, maximal

SUFFIXES

Affix added to the end of a base word (root word)

Suffixes That Mean "One Who"

-er: farmer, dancer, baker

-man: fireman, policeman, mailman

-ist: dentist, cartoonist, typist

-ian: librarian, veterinarian, vegetarian

-ant: servant, assistant, applicant

-ee: payee, lessee, mortgagee

Suffixes That Change Nouns

-ation: alteration, flirtation, starvation

-ance: annoyance, allowance, resistance

-ness: darkness, goodness, kindness

-ment: excitement, agreement, pavement

-ity: acidity, rancidity, activity

-ism: socialism, alcoholism, sexism

-ior: behavior, savior, warrior

-dom: freedom, boredom, kingdom

-ure: failure, pleasure, departure

-ery: bravery, brewery, robbery

-ship: friendship, ownership, showmanship

-ade: lemonade, blockade

-age: baggage, acreage, voltage

-hood: childhood, adulthood, statehood

-ess: hostess, heiress, seamstress

Suffixes That Make Descriptive Words

-y: sandy, watery, dirty

-ful: careful, thoughtful, handful

-al: magical, coastal, natural

-less: worthless, cloudless, humorless

-ish: foolish, boyish, impish

-ic: tragic, heroic, historic

-esque: picturesque, grotesque, statuesque

-ive: defective, explosive, conclusive

-ative: imaginative, informative, figurative

-able: desirable, likeable, debatable

-ible: horrible, edible, divisible

-ous: famous, hazardous, joyous

Suffixes That Make Verbs

-en: lengthen, widen, loosen

-fy: magnify, clarify, classify

-ate: vaccinate, activate

-ize: popularize, customize, familiarize

Suffixes That Make Adverbs

-ly: softly, lowly, poorly

-wise: clockwise, lengthwise, crosswise

-ward: backward, downward

COMBINING FORMS

audio phile (hearing or sound - lover): audiovisual(sound - pictures)

auto graph (self - written): automobile, automatic

photo graph (light - written): photocopy, telephoto

bio graphy (life - written): biology, biosphere

theo logy (God - study): biology, geology

hypo derm ic (under - skin): dermatologist, epidermis

equi nox (equal - night): equidistant, equilateral

geo metry (earth - measure): geology, geography

pseudo nym (false - name): pseudoscience, pseudoparalysis

homo phone (same - sound): homograph, homogenous

tele phone (from afar - sound): phonograph, microphone

hydro philic (water - loving): dehydrate, hydroplane

hydro phobic (water - fear of): claustrophobic, homophobic

psych iatric (mind - treatment): psychoanalysis, psychology

atmo sphere (vapor - globe): hemisphere

thermo meter (temperature - measure): thermostat

dia logue (across - talk): monologue, travelogue

syn o nym (same - name): antonym, pseudonym

neur itis (nerve - disease): Her diagnosis is neuritis.+ neurologist, neurosurgeon

mal (bad): malpractice, maladjusted, malformed