

Prefixes

A prefix is a small unit placed at the *BEGINNING* of a word to modify or change its meaning. The following is a list of the 14 most used prefixes. Learning these can help you understand many words.

Prefix	Meaning	Common Words/Examples
The 14 Most Used Prefixes		
ab- (also abs-)	Away from	<u>A</u> bsent, <u>a</u> bstract, <u>a</u> bdicate, <u>a</u> bduction
be-	On all sides, all around, completely	<u>B</u> eset, <u>b</u> espatter, <u>b</u> emoan, <u>b</u> ecame
de-	Reversal, undoing, downward, away	<u>D</u> escend, <u>d</u> espair, <u>d</u> epend, <u>d</u> educt, <u>d</u> e-ice
dis- , dif-	Not, reversal, expulsion	<u>D</u> isadvantage, <u>d</u> ismount, <u>d</u> isbar, <u>d</u> iscovery
ex-	Out of, former, completely	<u>E</u> xit, <u>e</u> xpand, <u>e</u> xalt, <u>e</u> x-wife, <u>e</u> xclude, <u>e</u> xasperate
pre-	Before in time, place, or order	<u>P</u> recondition, <u>p</u> re-adolescent, <u>p</u> review, <u>p</u> rediction
re-	Again, restore, repeatedly	<u>R</u> eflection, <u>r</u> eduction, <u>r</u> evolution, <u>r</u> epaint, <u>r</u> eawake
un-	Do the opposite of, not	<u>U</u> nacceptable, <u>u</u> nhappy, <u>u</u> narmed, <u>u</u> nreal, <u>u</u> nconstitutional
ad- (This prefix changes in order to attach easily to a word for the sake of pronunciation. Notice that it just doubles the consonant. So <i>ad</i> at times becomes <i>ac-</i> , <i>af-</i> , <i>ag-</i> , <i>al-</i> , <i>ap-</i> , and <i>-as</i> .)	To, toward	<u>A</u> dvance, <u>a</u> ffiliate, <u>a</u> ggravate, <u>a</u> lleviate, <u>a</u> nnotate, <u>a</u> ppropriate, <u>a</u> ssemble, <u>a</u> ttend
com- , con- , co-	With, together	<u>C</u> onference, <u>c</u> ontext, <u>c</u> ongress, <u>c</u> ongregation, <u>c</u> ombat, <u>c</u> o-driver, <u>c</u> onfide
en- , em- ,	In, into, to cover or contain, intensify	<u>E</u> ngulf, <u>e</u> nlighten, <u>e</u> ntangle, <u>e</u> mbitter
in- (also il- , im- , ir-)	Into, not,	<u>I</u> nappropriate, <u>i</u> nfiltrate, <u>i</u> nfallible, <u>i</u> nfluence, <u>i</u> lliterate, <u>i</u> lluminate, <u>i</u> mport, <u>i</u> mpossible, <u>i</u> rrigate, <u>i</u> rrelevant
pro-	In favor of, before	<u>P</u> ro-choice, <u>p</u> ro-life, prologue, <u>p</u> ropulsion
sub- (also suc- , suf- , sug- , sup- , sur- , sus)	Under, beneath, lower in rank	<u>S</u> ubmarine, <u>s</u> ubsoil, <u>s</u> ub-tropical, <u>s</u> ubset, <u>s</u> ubway, <u>s</u> ubtitles

Root Words Commonly Found in Science

Most of our words are made up of “units” inside words. We call these small units---roots. Most of our English language is made up of words that have combined prefixes, roots, and suffixes from Latin and Greek. What happens is we take a root such as “*tract*” which means to *drag or draw* and we make words just by adding different prefixes or suffixes making words such as *subtract or attract or traction*---each of which have a very different meaning. You can actually figure out the meanings of 1000’s of words you may have not seen before by recognizing the root is located, understanding its meaning and the meanings of what has been attached---the prefixes and suffixes. Knowing root words is a powerful tool.

Root Word	Meaning	Common Words/Examples
audi	To hear	<u>Auditory</u> , <u>audible</u> , <u>audition</u>
ecto	Outside, external	<u>Ectoderm</u> , <u>ectoplasm</u> , <u>ectopic</u>
endo	Inside, within	<u>Endotoxin</u> , <u>endoscope</u>
flect/flex	Bend	<u>Reflex</u> , <u>reflection</u> , <u>flexible</u> , <u>deflect</u>
frag/fract	Break	<u>Fracture</u> , <u>fragment</u> , <u>fraction</u>
flu, flux, fruct	Flow	<u>Fluctuate</u> , <u>reflux</u> , <u>influx</u>
hetero	Other	<u>Heterosexual</u> , <u>heterogeneous</u>
hydra	Water	<u>Hydraulics</u> , <u>dehydrate</u> , <u>hydrant</u>
ject	To throw	<u>Reject</u> , <u>eject</u> , <u>trajectory</u> , <u>interject</u>
lab	work	<u>Labor</u> , <u>collaborate</u> , <u>laboratory</u>
luc/lum	Light	<u>Illuminate</u> , <u>lucid</u> , <u>translucent</u>
mania	Madness	<u>Maniac</u> , <u>maniacal</u> , <u>pyromania</u>
meter	Measure	<u>Thermometer</u> , <u>centimeter</u> , <u>metrics</u>
mit, miss	To send	<u>Transmit</u> , <u>missile</u> , <u>mission</u>
ortho	Straight	<u>Orthodontist</u> , <u>orthopedist</u>
photo	Light	<u>Photograph</u> , <u>photosynthesis</u>
psych	Mind	<u>Psychology</u> , <u>psycho</u> , <u>psychopath</u>
pul/pel	Force	<u>Compel</u> , <u>compulsion</u> , <u>propel</u>
rupt	Break	<u>Erupt</u> , <u>interrupt</u> , <u>rupture</u>
scope	See	<u>Microscope</u> , <u>telescope</u> , <u>scope</u>
sect, sec	Cut	<u>Intersect</u> , <u>dissect</u> , <u>section</u>
struct	Build	<u>Construct</u> , <u>structure</u> , <u>instruct</u>
therm	Heat	<u>Thermal</u> , <u>thermometer</u> , <u>thermocouple</u> , <u>thermoelectric</u>
vita	Life	<u>Vital</u> , <u>vitality</u> , <u>vitamin</u> , <u>revitalize</u>

Root Words Commonly Found in Mathematics

Most of our words are made up of “units” inside words. We call these small units---roots. Most of our English language is made up of words that have combined prefixes, roots, and suffixes from Latin and Greek. What happens is we take a root such as “*tract*” which means to *drag or draw* and we make words just by adding different prefixes or suffixes making words such as *subtract or attract or traction*---each of which have a very different meaning. You can actually figure out the meanings of 1000’s of words you may have not seen before by recognizing the root is located, understanding its meaning and the meanings of what has been attached---the prefixes and suffixes. Knowing root words is a powerful tool.

Root Word	Meaning	Common Words/Examples
duc, duct	To lead, pull	<u>Produce</u> , <u>abduct</u> , <u>product</u> , <u>transducer</u> , <u>viaduct</u> , <u>aqueduct</u> , <u>induct</u> , <u>deduct</u> , <u>reduce</u> , <u>induce</u>
flu, flux	Flow	<u>Influence</u> , <u>fluctuate</u> , <u>reflux</u> , <u>influx</u> , <u>confluence</u>
geo	Earth	<u>Geography</u> , <u>geology</u> , <u>geometry</u>
ject	To throw	<u>Reject</u> , <u>eject</u> , <u>project</u> , <u>trajectory</u> , <u>interject</u> , <u>inject</u> , <u>dejected</u>
jud/jus	Law	<u>Judge</u> , <u>justice</u> , <u>justify</u> , <u>judicial</u>
loc	Place	<u>Locate</u> , <u>location</u> , <u>allocate</u>
meter	Measure	<u>Thermometer</u> , <u>centimeter</u> , <u>metrics</u>
mit, miss	To send	<u>Transmit</u> , <u>permit</u> , <u>missile</u> , <u>missionary</u> , <u>remit</u> , <u>admit</u> , <u>missive</u> , <u>mission</u>
poly	Many	<u>Polygon</u> , <u>polygamy</u>
pop	People	<u>Population</u> , <u>populate</u> , <u>popular</u>
port	Carry	<u>Portable</u> , <u>transport</u> , <u>import</u> , <u>export</u>
ques	Ask/seek	<u>Question</u> , <u>request</u> , <u>quest</u> , <u>inquest</u>
sim	Like	<u>Simulation</u> , <u>simultaneous</u> , <u>simile</u>
sol/solo	Alone	<u>Solo</u> , <u>solitary</u> , <u>soliloquy</u>
spect	To look	<u>Inspect</u> , <u>spectator</u> , <u>circumspect</u> , <u>retrospect</u> , <u>prospect</u> , <u>spectacle</u>
struct	Build	<u>Construct</u> , <u>structure</u> , <u>instruct</u>
tract	To drag, draw	<u>Protract</u> , <u>protractor</u> , <u>subtract</u> , <u>contract</u>
vert, vers	To turn	<u>Convert</u> , <u>revert</u> , <u>invert</u> , <u>extravert</u>

Root Words Commonly Found in Social Studies

Most of our words are made up of “units” inside words. We call these small units---roots. Most of our English language is made up of words that have combined prefixes, roots, and suffixes from Latin and Greek. What happens is we take a root such as “*tract*” which means to *drag or draw* and we make words just by adding different prefixes or suffixes making words such as *subtract or attract or traction*---each of which have a very different meaning. You can actually figure out the meanings of 1000’s of words you may have not seen before by recognizing the root is located, understanding its meaning and the meanings of what has been attached---the prefixes and suffixes. Knowing root words is a powerful tool.

Root Word	Meaning	Common Words/Examples
cede, ceed, ces	To go, yield	<u>Succeed</u> , <u>recede</u> , <u>secession</u> , <u>exceed</u> , <u>succession</u> , <u>secede</u>
chron	Time	<u>Chronology</u> , <u>chronic</u> , <u>chronicle</u>
demo	People	<u>Democracy</u> , <u>epidemic</u>
doc	Teach	<u>Doctrine</u> , <u>document</u>
dyn, dyna	Power	<u>Dynamic</u> , <u>dynamite</u> , <u>dynasty</u>
fac/fic	Make/do	<u>Factory</u> , <u>manufacture</u> , <u>sufficient</u>
form	Shape	<u>Uniform</u> , <u>transform</u> , <u>reform</u>
gen	Birth/race/family	<u>Generation</u> , <u>genealogy</u> , <u>genocide</u>
geo	Earth	<u>Geography</u> , <u>geology</u> , <u>geometry</u>
jud/jus	Law	<u>Judge</u> , <u>justice</u> , <u>justify</u> , <u>judicial</u>
loc	Place	<u>Locate</u> , <u>location</u> , <u>allocate</u>
man	Hand	<u>Manual</u> , <u>manuscript</u> , <u>manufacture</u>
mand	Order	<u>Command</u> , <u>demand</u> , <u>mandate</u>
mania	Madness	<u>Maniac</u> , <u>maniacal</u> , <u>pyromania</u>
pop	People	<u>Population</u> , <u>populate</u> , <u>popular</u>
port	Carry	<u>Portable</u> , <u>import</u> , <u>export</u>
ques	Ask/seek	<u>Question</u> , <u>request</u> , <u>quest</u> , <u>inquest</u>
retro	Backwards	<u>Retrospect</u> , <u>retroactive</u>
rupt	Break	<u>Erupt</u> , <u>interrupt</u> , <u>rupture</u>
sanct	Holy	<u>Sanctuary</u> , <u>sanction</u> , <u>sanctimonious</u>
struct	Build	<u>Construct</u> , <u>structure</u> , <u>instruct</u> , <u>destruct</u>
theo	God	<u>Theology</u> , <u>theist</u> , <u>polytheist</u>
veh, vect	To carry	<u>Vehicle</u> , <u>convection</u> , <u>vehement</u>

Root Words Commonly Found in Language Arts & Reading

Most of our words are made up of “units” inside words. We call these small units---roots. Most of our English language is made up of words that have combined prefixes, roots, and suffixes from Latin and Greek. What happens is we take a root such as “*tract*” which means to *drag or draw* and we make words just by adding different prefixes or suffixes making words such as *subtract or attract or traction*---each of which have a very different meaning. You can actually figure out the meanings of 1000’s of words you may have not seen before by recognizing the root is located, understanding its meaning and the meanings of what has been attached---the prefixes and suffixes. Knowing root words is a powerful tool.

Root Word	Meaning	Common Words/Examples
audi	To hear	<u>A</u> udience, <u>a</u> uditory, <u>a</u> udible, <u>a</u> uditorium, <u>a</u> udiovisual, <u>a</u> udition
bene	Good, well	<u>B</u> enefactor, <u>b</u> eneficial, <u>b</u> enevolent, <u>b</u> enediction, <u>b</u> eneficiary, <u>b</u> enefit
clud, clus, claus	To close	<u>I</u> nclude, <u>e</u> xclude, <u>c</u> lause, <u>c</u> laustrophobia, <u>e</u> xclusive, <u>r</u> ecclusive, <u>c</u> onclude
dei, div	God, god	<u>D</u> ivinity, <u>d</u> ivine, <u>d</u> eity, <u>d</u> eify, <u>d</u> ivination
dict, dic	Speak	<u>P</u> redict, <u>v</u> erdict, <u>d</u> ictionary, <u>d</u> ictate
graph/gram	To write	<u>G</u> rammar, <u>b</u> iography, <u>g</u> raphic, <u>p</u> olygraph, <u>a</u> utograph, <u>t</u> elegram
log	Word	<u>D</u> ialogue, <u>p</u> rologue, <u>a</u> pology
mort	Death	<u>M</u> ortuary, <u>m</u> ortal, <u>m</u> ortician
neo	New	<u>N</u> eoclassic, <u>n</u> eophyte, <u>n</u> eonatal
omni	All	<u>O</u> mnipotent, <u>o</u> mniscient
onym	Name	<u>S</u> ynonym, <u>a</u> nonymous, <u>p</u> seudonym
path	Feeling/suffer	<u>S</u> ympathy, <u>e</u> mpathetic, <u>p</u> athos
ques	Ask/seek	<u>Q</u> uestion, <u>r</u> equ ^e st, <u>q</u> uest, <u>i</u> nquest
sanct	Holy	<u>S</u> anctify, <u>s</u> anctuary, <u>s</u> anction, <u>s</u> anctimonious
scrib/script	To write	<u>I</u> nscription, <u>m</u> anuscript, <u>s</u> cribble,
sol/solo	Alone	<u>S</u> olo, <u>s</u> olitary, <u>s</u> oliloquy
theo	God	<u>T</u> heology, <u>t</u> heist, <u>p</u> olytheist

Suffixes

Suffixes are found at the **ENDS** of words and modify or change the meaning. There are not as many suffixes, but the knowledge of their meanings is powerful for gaining work knowledge.

Suffixes	Meaning	Common Words/Examples
-able, ible	Can be	<u>Read</u> able, lo <u>v</u> able, change <u>a</u> ble, formid <u>a</u> ble, like <u>a</u> ble, vis <u>i</u> ble, sens <u>i</u> ble
-al, an, ial, ic, ical,	Relating to	Comm <u>e</u> rcial, nat <u>r</u> al, urb <u>a</u> n, tonic, com <u>i</u> cal
-ant, ar, ard	One who or one who is	Serv <u>a</u> nt, beggar, drunk <u>a</u> rd
-arium-ary, -orium, -ory	Place for or with	Aqu <u>a</u> rium, sol <u>a</u> rium, libr <u>a</u> ry, auditorium, laborat <u>o</u> ry
-ed, ing	Change tense or time	March <u>e</u> d, talk <u>e</u> d, sing <u>i</u> ng, dream <u>i</u> ng
-ee, ent, er, ess	One who or one who is	Emplo <u>y</u> ee, stud <u>e</u> nt, teach <u>e</u> r, superintend <u>e</u> nt, heiress
-en	To make	Weaken, strengthen
-en, ed	That which was	Mistak <u>e</u> n, stol <u>e</u> n, hidden <u>e</u> d, bak <u>e</u> d, lik <u>e</u> ned
-ette, cle, cule, let	Small	Din <u>e</u> tte, partic <u>l</u> e, molec <u>u</u> le, bookl <u>e</u> t
-ful, ous, ulent, y	Full of	Care <u>f</u> ul, wondr <u>o</u> us, turbul <u>e</u> nt, word <u>y</u>
-ily, -ly	In what manner	Stead <u>i</u> ly, speed <u>i</u> ly, slow <u>l</u> y, quick <u>l</u> y, ginger <u>l</u> y, mild <u>l</u> y, nic <u>e</u> ly
-ism	Doctrine of	Marx <u>i</u> sm, commun <u>i</u> sm, fasc <u>i</u> sm, capital <u>i</u> sm
-ist	One who practices	Dent <u>i</u> st, scient <u>i</u> st, anarch <u>i</u> st
-less	Without	Care <u>l</u> ess, thought <u>l</u> ess
-ly	To what extent	Extrem <u>e</u> ly, scarc <u>e</u> ly, larg <u>e</u> ly, inappropriat <u>e</u> ly, finall <u>y</u>
-ology	Study of	Bio <u>l</u> ogy, anthropo <u>l</u> ogy, geo <u>l</u> ogy, patho <u>l</u> ogy
-ous	Full of	Genero <u>s</u> ous, wondr <u>o</u> us
-s, a, es, e	More than one	Cat <u>s</u> , dat <u>a</u> , box <u>e</u> s, alumna <u>e</u>
-ship	Art of skill of	Salesman <u>s</u> hip, showman <u>s</u> hip