



Prefixes and suffixes

Prefixes:

are a **group of letters** that come at the **beginning of a word** and they change its meaning : example : happy / **un**happy war / **post**war

Suffixes:

are a **group of letters** that come at the **end of a word** and they change its category (verb - noun - adjective - adverb....) : example : child / child**ish** comfort / comfort**able** lazy /laz**ily**

- **generally speaking there are three types of suffixes :**

- Verb suffixes

are suffixes added to **adjectives** or **nouns** to make **verbs** . dark (adjective) => dark**en**
centre (noun) => central**ize**

- Noun suffixes

are suffixes added to **verbs**, **adjectives**, or **nouns** to make **nouns**. manage (verb) => management serious (adjective) => seriousness friend (noun) => friendship

- adjectival suffixes

are suffixes added to nouns, adjectives , or verbs to make adjectives . beauty (noun) => beautiful economic (adjective) =>economical excite (verb) => excited

NOTE : a word without any prefix or suffix is called **the root**

List of Common prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
anti	against, opposed to	antibiotic, antiwar, anti-virus, antifreeze
auto	self/by oneself	autobiography - autograph - autodidact - automatic
bi	two	bicycle - bilingual - bilateral
co	with - together	co-worker , co-producer , co-author
counter	against, opposing	counter-clockwise , counteract , counter-attack
de	undo / opposite action / remove	depress , demotivate , decode , degenerate
dis	not / the opposite of	dislike , distrust , disable , disagree , disorganised, disarm ,disadvantage ,disable , disobey
en	cause to be or become	enlarge ,enrich ,endanger ,enable ,enact
ex	former / previous	ex-teacher , ex-president , ex-student, ex-wife
il	not (used before a word beginning with the letter "L" like legal)	illegal ,illogical ,illicit ,illegitimate
im	not (used before a word beginning with the letter "m" like mature or "p" like possible)	immature ,impossible ,improbable ,imperfect -impersonal ,immodest ,immobile
in	not / opposite to	indistinct , inaccurate , indecent , inhuman ,incorrect , incapable , insufficient , incomprehensible , incomparable
in	in , movement to	insert , instil , inbuilt
inter	among / between / connected	international , inter-ship , intercontinental , internet
ir	not (used before a word beginning with the letter "r" like rational)	irrational , irregular , irresistible , irresponsible ,irrelevant
mis	wrongly / badly	mislead , mistake , misunderstand
mono	one /having one	monolingual , monosyllabic
multi	many	multicultural , multilingual , multimedia
neo	new / based on something old but in a new form	neocolonialism , neoclassic , neonatal ,non-conservative
non	not	non-governmental , nonsense , non-essential
out	more / to a greater extent	outnumber , outlive , outrage , outlaw
over	above / too much	overcook , overheat , overdo , overeat , overpaid
poly	many	polyglot , polyclinic , polygamy
post	after /come after	postwar , post-conflict , post-communism ,post-colonialism
pseudo	false	pseudonym , pseudo-scientist ,
pre	before / come before	prehistoric , prefix , pretest , predict , prepare

pro	in favour of	pro-American , pro-capitalist , proactive
re	back / do again	redo , rewrite , rename , revisit
self	by oneself	self-made , self-sufficient , self-service ,self-taught , selfish
half	semi	half-baked , halfway , half-time
sub	under / beneath	submarine , subject , subordinate , subway
super	above / beyond	superpower , superman , superstar
tele	far	telephone , telescope , telecommunicate , telescope
trans	across	transcontinental , transatlantic , transfer , transform
un	not	unknown , unjust , unkind , unsafe , unable
under	below / beneath / not enough , insufficient	underline , under-age , underemployed , underpaid

List of Common suffixes

suffixes	meaning	examples
-able/-ible	liable / that can be of /capable of	drinkable , washable , disposable , believable , responsible
-ai /ial	has the property of	personal , industrial , financial , critical , musical
-ance	state /condition or quality	acceptance , inheritance , performance , assistance ,importance ,guidance
-ant	quality or state / full of	assistant , distant , important , pleasant , ignorant , relevant , tolerant
-ate	to make	cooperate , procrastinate , coordinate , decorate ,collaborate , accelerate , activate , donate , animate
-ent	quality or state	fluent , innocent , prudent , silent , different ,confident
-ar	one who / thing which / from	liar , regular , muscular , solar , lunar , similar
-ary	like / connected with / belonging to	stationary , dictionary , legendary , imaginary ,necessary , secondary , documentary , summary , voluntary
-dom	state or condition	freedom , boredom , wisdom
-cy	state or quality	literacy , accuracy , frequency , fluency , democracy ,privacy
-ed	past from	turned , collected , cooked , killed
-en	made of (adjective)	golden , wooden
-en	to make (verb)	lengthen , widen , shorten , soften , threaten

-ence	quality or state	reference , conference , residence , difference , violence , existence , competence
-ent	one who	resident , president
-er	one who	teacher , writer , painter , worker , player
-er	comparative	taller , shorter , bigger , smaller , faster
-ful	full of / with	hopeful , painful , careful , joyful , skilful , peaceful , successful , harmful , wonderful
-hood	state / condition / period	fatherhood , girlhood , neighbourhood , adulthood , womanhood , brotherhood
-ic	having the property of / connected with	heroic , economic , automatic , periodic , allergic , fantastic
-ify	make / cause....	clarify , justify , purify , solidify , classify , simplify , qualify , verify , identify
-ion	act / process	action , prediction , pollution , solution , addition , occupation , description , explanation , classification
-ish	like / similar to / of a nationality	childish , girlish , mannish , Spanish , British , foolish
-ism	act / action / behaviour / doctrine	tourism , cubism , criticism , socialism , journalism , racism , feminism , heroism
-ist	person with specific knowledge , belief or behaviour	optimist , typist , specialist , stylist , socialist , novelist , dentist
-ive	connection / function / disposition / character / quality / tendency / inclination	detective , destructive , impressive , massive , productive , creative , active , attentive , passive , relative , addictive
-ity	state / quality or condition	sanity , ambiguity , ability , purity , fraternity , dignity
-ize / -ise	bring about a state or condition / make	modernize , colonize , advertise , summarise , analyse
-less	without	homeless , childless , fearless , toothless , sleepless , jobless
-ly	every	daily , weekly , monthly
-ment	action / process	enjoyment , employment , development , movement , environment , agreement
-ness	quality / state of being	kindness , openness , darkness , awareness , happiness , greatness
-or	the person who	actor , doctor , advisor , counsellor , governor , sailor
-ory	the state of being / relating to	satisfactory , discriminatory , repository , contradictory , compulsory
-ous	full of / having	marvellous , religious , famous

-ship	state or experience of having a specific position	leadership , relationship , championship , citizenship,friendship , membership
-y	the state of / having	sunny , rainy , happy

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