

# Prefixes, Suffixes and Roots

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A **prefix** is a group of letters attached to the beginning of a word to partly demonstrate its definition. A **root** word is a base or stem of a word that conveys meaning.

Root or Prefix	Meaning	Example
ab	away (from)	absent
ad	to, toward	adhere
ante	before	anteroom
anti	against, opposed	antipathy
aqua	water	aquatic
aud	hear	auditory
auto	self	automatic
bene	well, good	beneficial
cede, ceed	go, move	proceed, recede
chron	time	chronological
circum	around	circumference
co, con, com	together, with	cooperate, conspiracy
cogni	know	recognize
counter, contra	against, opposite	counteract, contrary
cred	believe	credential
de	from, away	depart
dic, dict	say	dictate
dis	apart, from, away	distract
gamy	marriage	monogamy
gress	go, move	progress
inter	between	interrupt
mega	big	megaphone
mis	wrong, wrongly	mistake
mort	death	mortality
multi	many	multitude
non	not	nonadjustable
path	feeling, suffering	apathy
poly	many	polygamy
post	after	postpone
pre	before	preamble
pro	forward	propel
re	back, again	return, redo
retro	backward	retrospect
scrib	write	transcribe
spect	see, look	spectator, inspect
super	over, above	superior, supersonic
syn, sym	with, together	synchronize, symmetry
trans	across	transport

A **numerical prefix** indicates how many there are of a particular thing.

Prefix	Meaning	Example
uni	one	uniform
mono	one	monologue
du, duo	two	duet
bi	two	biped
tri	three	triangle
tetra	four	tetrameter
quad	four	quadruplets
penta	five	pentagon
quint	five	quintet
sex	six	sexagenarian
hex	six	hexagon
sept	seven	septet
oct	eight	octopus
nov	nine	novena
dec	ten	decade
cent	hundred	percent
hect	hundred	hectogram
mil	thousand	millimeter
kil	thousand	kilometer
semi	half	semicircle
hemi	half	hemisphere
demi	half	demitasse

A **suffix** is a group of letters added to the end of a word to adjust its meaning or change its part of speech.

Suffix	Meaning	Example
able, ible	able to	readable, excusable
al	pertaining to	musical, facial
ar, er, or	one who	teacher, actor
ful	full of	hopeful, careful
ish	like, close to	foolish, twentyish
ist	one who	psychologist, dentist
less	without	hatless, fearless
logy	study of	cosmetology, biology
ous	full of	cancerous, zealous
ness	state of, condition of	kindness, happiness
ly	characteristic of	quickly, happily
est	most, comparative	biggest, funniest
ion, tion, ation, ition	act, process	attraction, citation