Prefixes, Suffixes and Roots

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.

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| **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.

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| **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.

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| **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 |