

PREFIXES

Words That Come Before the Root Word

A **prefix** is a word part that comes before the root. For example, in the word *export* above, we have shown that *port* is the root. **Ex** is the prefix, which means “out” or “from.” *Export* literally means to carry out.

Prefixes that change a word’s meaning to its opposite:

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE
anti-	against	antiwar, antidote, antisocial, antislavery
dis-	not, away from	disagree, dishonest, disable, displeasure
mis-	wrong	misplace, misconduct, misfortune, misspell, misbehave
non-	not	nonsense, nonsmoker, nonviolent, nontoxic, nonverbal
ir-	not	irresponsible, irreversible, irreparable
il-	not	illegal, illegible, illegitimate, illogical
im-	not	impossible, imbalance, immature, immobile
in-	not	incorrect, incapable, inconsiderate
un-	not	unkind, unable, unhappy, uncertain, unbeaten, unbeaten, uncomfortable, unhealthy

Prefixes that show time:

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE
ante-	before	antecedent, anteroom, antedate
pre-	before	prepare, prenatal, prejudice, predict, precaution
post-	after	postgame, postwar, postmortem, postoperative, postgraduate

Prefixes that show place:

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE
de-	down, away	descend, detract, degrade, defrost
in-, en-	in, inside	interior, insure, enclose, enfold
ex-	out	external, exit, extract, exponent
sub-	under, below	submarine, subzero, subterranean
super-	above, over	superhuman, supernatural, superstar, supervisor, superintendent, superpower
pro-	forward	proceed, promote, propose, propel
trans-	across	transatlantic. transcend, translate

Number Prefixes:

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE
uni-	one	uniform, unit, unicycle
mono-	one	monotone, monarchy, monologue, monorail, monogram, monopoly
bi-	two	bicycle, biceps, bifocal, binocular, biplane
du-	two	duplex, duel, duplicate, duet, duo, duplicity
tri-	three	trio, triangle, triplets, trimester, tripod
qua-	four	quarter, quartet, quart, quadrangle, quadrant
pent-	five	pentagon, pentameter, pentathlon
oct-	eight	octopus, octagon, octave
cent-	hundred	centigrade, century, centimeter, centipede
semi-	half	semicircle, semiconscious, semiannual
multi-	many	multistory, multicolored, multimedia

Other Prefixes:

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE
co-, col-, con-, cor-	with, together	copilot, colleague, connect, correlate
re-	back, again	redo, regain, return, relive, rewrite, restate
auto-	self	automobile, automatic, autograph, autonomy
inter-	between, among	international, interstate, intervene, interrupt
intra-	inside	intravenous, intramural
extra-	more than usual	extrasensory, extraterrestrial, extrafine
mid-	in the middle of	midcentury, midtown, midnight, midpoint
mini-	small	miniskirt, minibike, minivan
neo	new	neonatal, neoclassical, neolithic
socio-	relating to society	socioeconomic, sociopolitical, sociopath
under-	not enough, below	underemployed, underpowered, underweight

