

Prefix, Suffix & Roots

Prefix, Suffix and Roots

➤ Common Prefixes in English

What is a prefix?

A prefix (affix) is a word, or letter(s) placed at the beginning of another word (a base word) to adjust or qualify its usage or meaning.

List of English Prefixes

Prefix	General Meaning	Example
a(n)-	not , without	atonicity , asexuality , amoral , anarchy
ab-	away	abduction , absolutism , ablution
ac-		
acr(o)-	high, up	Acropolis
aden(o)-		
aer(o)-	air	aeronautics , aerodrome , aeroplane , aerodynamics
agr(o)-	relating to farming	agriculture
an-		
an(a)-	out of	anachronism
an(o)-		

andr-	man	androgyny , androcentrism , android , androgen
anem-		
Anglo-	English or British	Anglo-Irish relations, anglophile
ante-	before	antebellum
anthrop(o)-	relating to human beings	anthropology , anthropocentrism , anthropomorphic
ant(i)-	against	antidote , antibody , anticlockwise
aut(o)-	self	autonomy , autobiography , automobile , autopilot
bar(o)-	atmosphere	
bathy-	deep	Bathyscape , Bathysphere
be-	completely, thoroughly; excessively; on; around; about; used to form transitive verbs	
bi-	two	bicycle , bijection , bilingual , bicameralism , bisexuality
bi(o)-	life	biology , biography ,

bibli(o)-	relating to books	biosphere , biotechnology bibliophilia , bibliography
blast(o)-		
brady-	slow	bradycardia
brom(o)-		
bronch(o)-	relating to breathing	bronchitis
cac(o)-		
cardi(o)-	heart	cardiovascular
cent-, centi -	hundred or hundredth	centenary, centimeter, centipede
cephal(o)-		
chrom(o)-, chromat(o)-		
chron(o)-	time	chronology, chronograph
circum-	around	circumcision, circumnavigation, circumlocution, circumference
cion(o)-		
co-	together	cooperative, cohabit
colpo-		
com-, con-, col-, cor-	with, together	conference , connotation , context , Congress , congregation

contr(a)-, contr(o) cosm(o)-	against, opposite	contradiction , contraception , controversy cosmology , cosmopolitan , cosmotheism
counter-	against, opposite	counterpoint , counterweight , Counter- Reformation
crin(o)- cry(o)-	frost , icy cold	cryogenics , cryoelectronics , cryostorage
crypt(o)-	hidden	cryptography , cryptozoology
cyt(o)-	hollow, receptacle, cell	cytoplasm , cytology
dactyl(o)- de-	taking something away, the opposite	decentralisation , deforestation , dehydration
dec(a)-, dek(a)- deci -	ten	decamorous deciliter
dem(o)-	people, nation	demographics , democracy
derm(o)-,	skin	dermatology , dermatitis

derm(a)-, dermat-		
di-	two , double	
didact(o)-	apt at teaching	
dynam(o)-	power , force	dynamic , dynamite , dynamo
dis-	reverse , opposite	dissent , discovery , disambiguation
dox(o)-	Doxology	
dys-	bad, deformed, abnormal	dyspepsia , dystrophy , dysarthria
eco-	house	economy , ecology , ecosystem , ecotourism , ecotage
ecto(s)-	outside	ectoskeleton
edaph(o)-		
electr(o)-	electricity	electrocution
embry(o)-	full	
encephal(o)-	brain	encephalitis
end(o)-, ent(o)-		
enne(a)-	nine	enneastyle
enter(o)-		
eo-	dawn, early	eobacterium

ep(i)-, eph-	above	epitaxy
erg(o)-		ergonomics
erythr(o)-		
erot(o)-		
stom(o)-, stomat(o)-		
ethn(o)-		ethnology , ethnolinguistics , ethnocentrism
eu-	good	eulogy , euthanasia , eugenics , euphemism
ex-	former	ex-wife, ex-president
ex(o)-	outside	exoskeleton
extra-	very, more than usual, outside, beyond	extra-thin, extra-special extraordinary, extraterrestrial
flor(i)-	relating to flowers	florist
fore-	before, in advance	foreskin , foreshadowing
gyn-	female	gynaecology , gynoid
hemi-	half	hemimetabolous
hex(a)-	six	hexapod
hyper-	excessive, (least to greatest in	hyperactive , hyperthyroidism

	order: hypo, sub, super, hyper)	
hyp(o)-	below, (least to greatest in order: hypo, sub, super, hyper)	hypodermic
in-	extremely	inflammable , invaluable
in-, il-, im-, ir-	not	infallibility , illiteracy , immoral , irrelevant
inter-	between, from one to another	intervention , international
intra-	within, interior	intramural, intravenous
kilo -	thousand	kilogram , kilowatt
mal-	bad, badly	malpractice , malnutrition
maxi-	most, very, large	maxi-dress
mega -, megal-	million , very large	megabyte , megaphone
meta-	after, beyond	metacarpal , metaphysics
micro -	one	microgram , microorganism

	millionth, very small	, micronation
mid-	in the middle of	mid-term elections , Mid-Autumn Festival , Mid-Atlantic Ridge
milli -	thousandth	milligram , milliliter
mini-	small	miniskirt , miniscule
mis-	bad , wrong	miscarriage , misanthropy , misogyny
mon(o)-	one , single	monolith , monorail , monotony , monocle
multi-	many	multiculturalism , multilingual
non-	not	nonsense, non-denial denial
non-	nine	none, nonagon
oct(o)-, oct(a)-	eight	octane , octopod , octagon
oo- (" oo - oh")	egg, ovum	oocyte
out-	more, to a greater degree	to outdo, to outrun
over-	more than normal, too much	overpopulation , over-consumption
pent(a)-	five	pentagon

post-	after	Post-Fordism , postpartum depression , postmodernity , postmodernism
pre-	before	prediction , preview , precedent , prenatal care
pro-	for, in favour of	pro-choice, pro-life, promotion
quadr-, quart-	four	quadrangle , quadruplet , quartic , quartile
quin(que)-	five , into five parts	quinquesection
quint(i)-	fifth , five	quintiped
re-	again, repeatedly	reduction , reflection , revolution
rect(i)-	proper, straight	rectify, rectangle
scler(o)-	hard	scleroderma atherosclerosis
semi-	half	semi-automatic , semi-detached
sept(a)-	seven	heptachord
sex(i)-	six	sexivalent
Sino-	Chinese	Sino-American relations
spasm(o)-		
sperm(o)-, spermat(o)-		

spher(o)-		
sphygm(o)-	pulso	sphygmomanometer
splen(o)-		
splanchn(o)-		
schiz(o)-, schist(o)-	split	schizophrenia , schistocyte
staphyl(o)-		
styl(o)-	pillar	
sub-	below, less than, under,(least to greatest in order: hypo, sub, super, hyper)	subset , subsonic , subway , subtitles
super-	extremely, more than, (least to greatest in order: <i>hypo, sub, super, hyper</i>)	superhuman , Superego , supersonic
syn-	along with, together, at the same	synergy , synchronicity

	time	
tach(y)-, tach(o)-	fast, speed	tachycardia , tachometer
tel(e)-, tel(o)-	far, over a long distance	telecommunications , television , telephoto lens , telodynamic
tel(o)-, tel(e)-	end, complete, mature	teloblast
trans-	across, beyond	transfer , transubstantiation , transatlantic , Trans- Siberian railway
tri-	three	triangle , tricolor , triptych
ultra-	extremely, beyond a certain limit	Ultramontanism , ultraviolet
un-	not, opposite, take something away	unconstitutional , undelete
uni-	one , single	uniform , unification
ur-	first, original	urtext
zoo- (" zoo - oh")	relating to animals	zoomorphic , zoology

➤ Common Suffixes in English

Noun Suffixes		
Suffix	Meaning	Example
-acy	state or quality	privacy, <u>fallacy</u> , delicacy
-al	act or process of	refusal, recital, <u>rebuttal</u>
-ance, -ence	state or quality of	maintenance, eminence, assurance
-dom	place or state of being	freedom, kingdom, boredom
-er, -or	one who	trainer, protector, <u>narrator</u>
-ism	doctrine, belief	communism, narcissism, scepticism
-ist	one who	chemist, narcissist, <u>plagiarist</u>
-ity, -ty	quality of	inactivity, veracity, parity, serenity
-ment	condition of	<u>argument</u> , endorsement, punishment

-ness	state of being	heaviness, sadness, rudeness, testiness
-ship	position held	fellowship, ownership, kinship, internship
-sion, -tion	state of being	<u>concession</u> , <u>transition</u> , <u>abbreviati on</u>

Verb Suffixes

-ate	become	regulate, eradicate, enunciate, repudiate
-en	become	enlighten, awaken, strengthen
-ify, -fy	make or become	terrify, satisfy, rectify, exemplify
-ize, -ise*	become	civilize, humanize, socialize, valorize

Adjective Suffixes

-able, -ible	capable of being	edible, presentable, abominable, credible
-al	pertaining to	regional, <u>grammatical</u> , emotional, coastal
-esque	reminiscent of	picturesque, statuesque, burlesque

-ful	notable for	fanciful, resentful, woeful, doubtful
-ic, -ical	pertaining to	musical, mythic, domestic, chiasitic
-ious, -ous	characterized by	nutritious, portentous, studious
-ish	having the quality of	fiendish, childish, snobbish
-ive	having the nature of	creative, punitive, divisive, decisive
-less	without	endless, ageless, lawless, effortless
-y	characterized by	sleazy, hasty, greasy, nerdy, smelly

➤ **List of Word Roots**

Word root/ prefix	Root Meaning	Words based on the Root
A/n	not, without	abyss - without bottom achromatic - without color anhydrous - without water
Ambi, amphi	both, on both sides, around	ambidextrous - able to use both hands equally ambiguous - having more than one meaning ambivalence - conflicting or opposite feelings toward a person or thing
Ambul	walk, move	amble - to walk in a slow, relaxed way ambulant - walking or moving around ambulance - a vehicle that moves a patient
Ami/o	love	amiable - friendly, pleasant, lovable amity - friendly and peaceful relations amorous - showing romantic love
Anim	life, spirit	animal - a living organism

		animate - to make alive equanimity - of balanced spirit
Anthrop/o	human	anthropology - the study of mankind anthropomorphism - giving human form to non-human things philanthropy - the love to mankind (expressed through good deeds)
Anti	against, opposite of	antibody - a substance that destroys micro-organisms antiseptic - preventing infection antisocial - opposing social norm
Bell/i	war	bellicose - warlike belligerent - hostile, ready to fight rebel - person who opposes and fights
Bi/n	two, twice, once in every two	biannual - happening twice a year binoculars - optical device with two lenses

		bilateral - of or involving two sides
Bibli/o	book	bibliography - a list of books used as sources bibliomania - an extreme love of books bibliophile - a person who loves books
Bio	life, living matter	biography- a life story written by another person biology - the science of life biosphere - Earth's surface inhabited by living things
Chron/o	time	chronic - lasting for a long time chronological - arranging events in time order, synchronize - happening at the same time
Cide, cise	cut, kill	homicide - murder incisor - a sharp tooth for cutting food insecticide - a chemical used to kill insects
Circum,	around,	circumnavigate - to sail

	about	around circumscribe - to draw around circumspect - looking around
Cogn/i	know	cognition - process of acquiring knowledge incognito - disguised so no one knows you recognize - to discover that one knows
Cred	believe	credence - belief that something is true or valid credulous - believing things too easily, gullible incredible - unbelievable
Cruc	cross	crucial-characteristic of or having the form of a cross crucifix- the cross itself as a Christian emblem excruciating- so intense as to cause great pain or anguish
Crypto	hidden, secret	cryptic - of hidden meaning cryptography - science of secret codes

		encrypt - encode into secret code
Cumul	mass, heap	accumulate - to gather or pile up cumulative - gradually building up
Dem/o	people	democracy - government of the people demographic - the study of people epidemic - spreading among people in a region
Di/plo	two, twice	dichromatic - displaying two colors diploma - a certificate, literally "a letter folded double" dilemma - a situation that requires a choice between two alternatives.
Domin	master	dominate - to be the master of domineering - excessively controlling predominate - to have more power than others

Ego	self	egoistic - self-centered alter ego - a higher aspect of oneself egomania - excessive preoccupation with oneself.
Em, en	into, cover with, cause	empathy - intention to feel like another person empower - put into power engorge - make larger.
Ep/i	on, upon, over,	epidemic - the rapid spread of something negative epilogue - a short speech delivered after a play epicenter - the center of an earthquake.
Equ/i	equal, equally	equidistant - an equal distance from two points equanimity - calm temperament, evenness of temper equation - a statement of equality.
Ethno	race, people	ethnic - pertaining to a defined group of people ethnocentric - focusing on

		the ethnicity of people ethnology - the science of people and races.
Fore	in front of, previous, earlier	forebear - ancestor forebode - to give an advance warning of something bad forecast - a preview of events to be.
Gen/o/e/	birth, production, formation, kind	genealogy - the study of the history of a family generation - all the people born at approximately the same time genetic -relating to heredity encoded in the genes.
Gyn/o/e	woman, female	gynecology - the science of female reproductive health gynephobia - fear of women gynecoid - resembling a woman.
Hetero	different, other	heterogeneous - made up of unrelated parts heteronyms - words with same spelling but different

		meanings heterodox - not conforming to traditional beliefs.
Homo, homeo	like, alike, same	homogeneous - of the same nature or kind homonym - sounding alike homeopath - a therapy that is based on treating "same with same"
Hyper	too much, over, excessive, beyond	hyperactive - very restless hypercritical - too critical hypertension - above normal pressure.
Icon/o	image	icon - an (often religious) image, in modern usage a simplified graphic of high symbolic content iconology - science of symbols and icons iconoclast - someone who destroys religious images and traditional beliefs.
Log/o	word, doctrine, discourse	logic - correct reasoning monologue - a long speech by one speaker analogy - similarity,

		especially between things otherwise dissimilar.
Macro	large, great	macroevolution - large scale evolution macromolecule - a large molecule macroeconomics - study of the overall forces of economy.
Magn/a/i	great, large	magnify - make larger magnificent - grand magnate - a powerful person, especially in business or industry.
Mal/e	bad, ill, wrong	malcontent - wrong content malaria - "bad air", infectious disease thought to originate from the "bad air" of the swamps, but caused by the bite of an infected mosquito malicious - showing strong ill will.
Mater, matr/i	mother	maternal - relating to motherhood

		maternity - the state of being a mother matriarch - a woman head of a household.
Mega	great, large, million	megalopolis - an area with many nearby cities megaphone - a device that projects a loud voice megastructure - huge building or other structure.
Micro	very small, short, minute	microbe - a very small living thing microchip - a tiny wafer with an integrated circuit microscope - a device to see very small things.
Min/i	small, less	mini - something that is very small minuscule - extremely tiny minutiae - very small or trivial details.
Mort	death	immortal - living forever, unable to die mortal - certain to die mortician - an undertaker.

Nat	born	innate - included since birth natal - relating to birth natural - gotten at birth, not afterward.
Nom/in	name	misnomer - an error in naming a person or thing nominal - being something in name only but not in reality nominate - to name for election or appointment, to designate.
Non	no, not, without	nondescript - with no special characteristics nonfiction - true, real, not made-up nonsense - without sense.
Omni	all	omnipotent - with all the power omniscient - knowing all things omnivorous eating all foods.
Opt	best	optimal - the best, the most desirable optimize - to make the best

		of optimum - the best something could be.
Pan	all, any, everyone	panacea - a cure for all diseases or problems panorama - an all-around view pantheism - the worship of all gods pandemic - affecting all.
Path	feeling, emotion	antipathy - a feeling of great dislike apathy - a lack of feeling or interest empathy - ability to understand another's feelings.
Phil/o	love, friend	philanthropist - one who loves humanity philology - the love of words philosophy - the love of wisdom bibliophil - loving books.
Pre	earlier, before, in	preamble - a part in front of a formal document

	front of	prepare - to get ready in advance prediction - a statement foretelling the future.
Psych/o	mind, mental	psyche - the human spirit or soul psychic - relating to the human mind or someone who has supernatural mental abilities psychology - the study of the mind.
Retro	backward, back	retroactive - relating to something in the past retrogress - to go back to an earlier condition retrospect - the remembering of past events.
Scrib, script	write, written	inscribe - to write letters or words on a surface scribe - a person who writes out documents describe - to represent with words or pictures.
Sect	cut	dissect - to cut apart piece

by piece
intersection - the place or
point where two things
cross each other
bisect - to cut into two
equal parts.

Somn/i	sleep	insomnia - inability to fall asleep somniloquy - talking in your sleep somnolent - feeling sleepy.
---------------	-------	--

Spec/t,	see, look	circumspect - cautious, looking all around retrospective - a looking back at past things spectator - a person who sees an event.
----------------	-----------	---

Temp/or	time	contemporary- existing at the same time temporal - relating to time temporary - lasting for a limited time.
----------------	------	---

The/o	god	monotheism - belief in one god
--------------	-----	-----------------------------------

		polytheism - worshipping more than one god theology - the study of religion, god, etc.
Verb	word	verbalize - to put into words adverb - a word relating to a verb proverb - a short saying that expresses a well-known truth.
Vol/i/u	wish, will	benevolent - showing good will and kindness volition - the act of making a choice or decision, voluntary - resulting from your own free will.
