

Unit 2: Vocabulary Building and Comprehension

1. Vocabulary Building: Prefixes and Suffixes

1.1 What are Prefixes and Suffixes?

- **Prefixes** are added **before** a root word to change its meaning.
- **Suffixes** are added **after** a root word to modify its function or meaning.

Using prefixes and suffixes correctly can help in **understanding new words** and **expanding vocabulary**.

1.2 Common Prefixes in English

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Meaning of Example
un-	Not, opposite of	Unhappy	Not happy
re-	Again, back	Rewrite	Write again
pre-	Before	Prepaid	Paid before using
dis-	Not, opposite of	Disagree	Not agree
mis-	Wrong, incorrectly	Misunderstand	Understand wrongly
in-, im-, il-, ir-	Not	Impossible	Not possible
over-	Too much	Overcook	Cook too much
under-	Too little	Underestimate	Think less of something
anti-	Against	Antisocial	Not social
co-	Together	Co-worker	A person working together

Example Sentences:

1. She felt **uncomfortable** in the cold weather. (*un-* means not, so "uncomfortable" means not comfortable.)
2. We need to **rewrite** the essay before submitting it. (*re-* means again, so "rewrite" means write again.)
3. His decision was **irresponsible**. (*ir-* means not, so "irresponsible" means not responsible.)

1.3 Common Suffixes in English

Suffix	Meaning	Example	Meaning of Example
-able, -ible	Can be done	Readable	Can be read

Suffix	Meaning	Example	Meaning of Example
-less	Without	Fearless	Without fear
-ment	State of	Enjoyment	State of enjoying
-tion, -sion	Process of	Education	Process of learning
-er, -or	Someone who does	Teacher	One who teaches
-ous, -ious	Full of	Joyous	Full of joy
-ly	In what manner	Quickly	In a quick manner

Example Sentences:

1. This book is very **readable**. (-able means "can be done", so "readable" means can be read.)
2. She worked **quickly** to finish the assignment. (-ly means "in what manner", so "quickly" means in a quick manner.)
3. The **teacher** explained the lesson well. (-er means "someone who does", so "teacher" means someone who teaches.)

2. Synonyms and Antonyms

2.1 What are Synonyms?

- **Synonyms** are words with the **same or similar** meanings.
- Using synonyms makes writing **more interesting and expressive**.

Word Synonym 1 Synonym 2

Happy	Joyful	Cheerful
Fast	Quick	Rapid
Smart	Intelligent	Clever
Big	Large	Huge
Strong	Powerful	Sturdy

Example Sentences:

1. She was **joyful** when she won the competition. (*Synonym of happy*)
2. He ran **rapidly** to catch the train. (*Synonym of fast*)

2.2 What are Antonyms?

- **Antonyms** are words with **opposite** meanings.

Word Antonym 1 Antonym 2

Happy	Sad	Miserable
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Word Antonym 1 Antonym 2

Fast	Slow	Sluggish
Smart	Dumb	Unintelligent
Big	Small	Tiny
Strong	Weak	Fragile

Example Sentences:

1. The test was **easy**, not **difficult**. (*Antonym of difficult is easy*)
2. He was very **brave**, not **fearful**. (*Antonym of fearful is brave*)

3. Reading Comprehension

3.1 What is Reading Comprehension?

Reading comprehension is the ability to **understand and interpret** written text. It involves:

- **Identifying the main idea**
- **Understanding details**
- **Using context clues to guess meanings**

3.2 Tips for Better Comprehension

1. **Read actively** – Focus on key points.
2. **Find the main idea** – What is the text about?
3. **Look for context clues** – Surrounding words help understand meanings.
4. **Ask questions** – Who? What? Why?
5. **Summarize** – Write the key points in your own words.

3.3 Example Passage & Questions

Passage:

"The invention of the printing press revolutionized the world of books. Before its creation, books were handwritten, making them expensive and rare. However, with the printing press, books became affordable and widespread, increasing literacy rates."

Questions:

1. What was the main impact of the printing press?
 - o a) Made books more expensive
 - o b) Increased literacy rates
 - o c) Reduced the use of paper

- d) Encouraged handwriting

Answer: (b) Increased literacy rates

4. Outcomes of this Module

By studying this module, you will:

- ✓ Understand **prefixes and suffixes** and how they change word meanings.
- ✓ Learn how to use **synonyms and antonyms** to improve vocabulary.
- ✓ Develop **reading comprehension skills** with strategies for better understanding.