

Prefixes and Suffixes

Prefixes

- Prefixes are added to the beginning of a word to make a new word with a different meaning. For example:
- **Un**happy
- **Il**legal
- **Im**possible
- **Mult**icultural

Suffixes

- Suffixes are added to the end of a main word. This often changes the word to a different part of speech. For example a verb to an adjective.
- Harmless
- Restful
- Childish
- Likeable

- Some suffixes and prefixes are part of our living language in that people regularly use them to create new words for modern products, concepts or situations.
- For example **e**mail. The prefix **e** stands for electronic and so we see a growing number of internet related words being formed such as **e**-book and **e**-commerce.
- It is helpful to know the meanings of the prefixes and suffixes to then understand the meaning of words.

Prefixes

A **prefix** is a group of letters placed before the root of a word. For example, the word "**un**happy" consists of the prefix "**un**-" which means "not" combined with the root or stem word "happy"; the word "**un**happy" means "not happy."

Prefixes

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLES
de-	from, down, away reverse, opposite	decode, decrease
dis-	not, opposite, reverse, away	disagree, disappear
ex-	out of, away from, lacking, former	exhale, explosion
il-	not	illegal, illogical
im-	not, without	impossible, improper
in-	not, without	inaction, invisible
mis-	bad, wrong	mislead, misplace
non-	not	nonfiction, nonsense
pre-	before	prefix, prehistory
pro-	for, forward, before	proactive, profess, program
re-	again, back	react, reappear
un-	against, not, opposite	undo, unequal, unusual

List of Prefixes

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Un-fair | unanswered, unknown |
| 2. Non-smoker | non-billable, nonsmoker |
| 3. De-forest | deregulate, decommission |
| 4. Sub-set | subclass, subset |
| 5. Mis-conduct | misbehavior, mislead |
| 6. In-capable | insolvent, inaudible |
| 7. Un-certain | unromantic, unreal |
| 8. Out-line | outsmart, outwit |
| 9. Over-eat | overgraze, overreact |
| 10. Co-operate | cocurricular, coexist |

Poll

► Q1. In many countries it is ___ legal to keep a gun in your house.

A. un

B. il

C. in



► Option B

11. Co-habit co-operation, co-artist
12. Pro-motion procreate, prorated
13. Tri-color trilogy, triumvirate
14. Auto-crate automobile, autonomous
15. Sub-way substandard, subterranean
16. Trans-plant trans Siberia, transnational
17. Ultra-modern ultra-thin, ultra-sleek
18. Bi-lingual bipolar, biennial
19. Re-build reappear, reemerge
20. Sub-title subplot, subtopic

► Q2. Thousands of people have taken part in a _____-
democracy demonstration.

- A. pro
- B. anti
- C. for



► Option B

Q3. There was some _____agreement over the bill.

- A. dis
- B. mis
- C. un

► Option B

► Q4. She works for a _____national company. It has offices in over 30 countries.

- A. inter
- B. bi
- C. multi

► Option C

Q5. We were very _____satisfied with the service at the restaurant.

- A. un
- B. mis
- C. dis

► Option C

Suffixes

- A **suffix** is a group of letters placed after the root of a word. For example, the word flavor**less** consists of the root word "flavor" combined with the suffix "-**less**" which means "without"; the word "flavor**less**" means "having no flavor."

Suffixes

SUFFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLES
-able	able to, having the quality of	comfortable, portable
-al	relating to	annual, comical
-er	comparative	bigger, stronger
-est	superlative	strongest, tiniest
-ful	full of	beautiful, grateful
-ible	forming an adjective	reversible, terrible
-ily	forming an adverb	eerily, happily, lazily
-ing	denoting an action, a material, or a gerund	acting, showing
-less	without, not affected by	friendless, tireless
-ly	forming an adjective	clearly, hourly
-ness	denoting a state or condition	kindness, wilderness
-y	full of, denoting a condition, or a diminutive	glory, messy, victory,

List of Suffixes

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Book-let | piglet, rivulet |
| 2. Actr-ess | empress, princess |
| 3. Driv-er | player, employer |
| 4. Demo-cracy | plutocracy, autocracy |
| 5. Social-ist | pluralist, animalist |
| 6. Act-ion | evaluation, subtraction |
| 7. Auto-cracy | theocracy, democracy |
| 8. Happi-ness | holiness, blissfulness |
| 9. Crimin-al | national, international |
| 10. Deaf-en | hasten, chasten |

Q7. She has little aware_____ of the dangers she will face.

- A. ment
- B. ness
- C. ing

► Option B

11. Like-wise	product wise, group wise
12. Slow-ly	fastly, angrily
13. Popular-ize	fantasize, thematize
14. Cream-y	windy, shiny
15. Use-ful	helpful, wasteful
16. Court-eous	discourteous, marvelous
17. Simpl-ify	exemplify, signify
18. Ideal-ism	pluralism, favouritism
19. Drop-let	leaflet, anklet
20. Indi-an	African, Australian

► Q8. He couldn't hide his disappoint_____ at his low grade.

- A. ness
- B. ment
- C. y

► Option B

► Q9. I was shocked at her rude_____ .

- A. ness
- B. ment
- C. ence

► Option A

► Q10. She's training to become a psychologist_____

A. er

B. y

C. ist

► Option C

► Q11. Many people don't trust politic_____ because they tell lies.

- A. ists
- B. ians
- C. ers

► Option B

► **Q12. Art classes aim to develop children's creativ_____ .**

- A. ment
- B. ship
- C. ity

► Option c

► Q14. She can't accept critic_____ from her colleagues.

- A. al
- B. ism
- C. ing

► Option B

- ▶ Q15. A suffix is a group of letters that you add to the start of a root word
- ▶ A) True
- ▶ B) False

► False

- ▶ Q16. The word pre-war means?
- ▶ A) before the war
- ▶ B) during the war
- ▶ C) after the war

► Option A

- ▶ Q17. If you take away the prefix and the suffix, what is left of the word 'unemployed'?
- ▶ A) unemploy
- ▶ B) employed
- ▶ C) employ

► Option C

► Q18. A prefix is letters that come at the _____ of a word.

- A. end
- B. beginning
- C. middle
- D. top

► Option B

► **Q19. The prefix re, like in the word replay means–**

- A. not
- B. before
- C. again
- D. dis

► Option C

- Q20. Read the sentence below.
Gabe trudged slowly to class. The suffix ly means–
- A. full of
 - B. able to do something
 - C. in a _____ way
 - D. the opposite of

► Option C