33 Prefixes

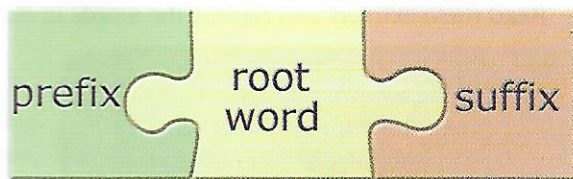## A Common prefixes

We can form new words by using prefixes and suffixes, e.g. <u>micro</u>-process-<u>or</u>
prefix + root + suffix.

Prefixes come before the root word and usually change its meaning. Here are some common ones in ICT.

- Negative prefixes meaning 'not':
  - **non-** **Non-volatile** memory retains its content when the power is turned off.
  - **un-** An **unformatted** disk has not been 'initialized'; it doesn't allow data to be stored.
- Prefixes of location:
  - **trans-** (= across) Data **transmission** can be wired or wireless.
  - **inter-** (= between) The Internet consists of millions of computers **interconnected** in a global network.
  - **intra-** (= within) An **intranet** is a private network, restricted to a company's internal use.
  - **extra-** (= outside, in addition to) An **extranet** links a company with its customers and suppliers.
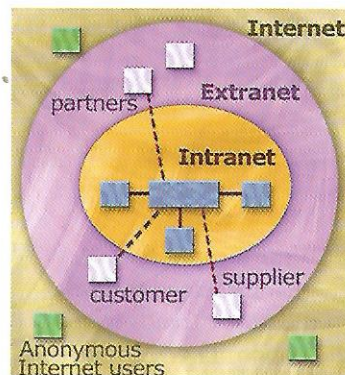 - **tele-** (= over a distance) **Teleconferencing** enables users in different places to talk to and see each other.
- Prefixes of size:
  - **super-** (= large, better) A **supersite** offers links to other websites on a certain topic.
  - **semi-** (= half, partly) A **semiconductor** is neither a good conductor nor a good insulator (e.g. silicon, used to make computer chips).
  - **micro-** (= small) A **microbrowser** is designed to display web pages on PDAs and mobiles.
  Prefixes of size are also used in units of memory like *megabyte* and *gigabyte*.
- Another common prefix is **re-** in words like *reprint*, *rewritable* and **reboot**, to start the computer again.

Word parts are like puzzle pieces

An extranet is like an extended intranet

B Verb prefixes

Prefixes used to form verbs which mean 'to cause to be something':
- **en-** **encrypt:** to change data into a secret code so that only someone with a key can read it
- **up-** **update:** to modify data in a file and thus ensure the file reflects the latest situation
  - **upgrade:** to add or replace hardware or software in order to expand the computer's power
  - **upload:** to send files to a central, often remote computer; compare with 'download'

Prefixes that mean 'the opposite of an action' or 'to reverse an action':
- **de-** **decrypt:** to convert secretly coded (encrypted) data back into its original form
  - **decompress:** to restore compressed data back to its original size
  - **debug:** to correct errors in a program or system
  - **defragment:** to reorganize data stored on disk by putting files into contiguous order
- **un-** **uninstall:** to remove hardware or software from a computer system

C The prefixes e- and cyber-

The e- prefix means 'electronic'; **cyber-** describes things relating to computer networks.
- **e-** The term **e-learning** refers to the use of ICT to provide education and training.
  An **e-zine** is a magazine or newsletter published online.
  E-commerce is the buying and selling of products or services over the Internet.
- **cyber-** The electronic space in which online communication takes place is called **cyberspace**.
  Cyberslacking means using a company's Internet access for activities which are not work-related, e.g. emailing friends, playing games, etc.; it is also called 'cyberloafing'.