



Tecnicatura Universitaria
en Programación

INGLÉS I

Unidad Temática N° 3:
Afijos

Actividad Complementaria I
1° Año – 1° Cuatrimestre



Prefixes



Word parts are like puzzle pieces.

A- Common Prefixes

We can form new words by using prefixes and suffixes,

e.g. micro-process-or.

prefix + root + suffix.

Prefixes come before the root word and usually change its meaning. Here are some common ones in ICT (Information and Communication Technology).

- 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.

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”.

1. Use the words from section A above to complete these sentences.

1. Medical researchers in many countries exchange information through email and _____.
2. _____ memory (e.g. ROM or flash memory) is able to hold data when switched off.
3. Blogs and web portals are examples of _____; they offer news, opinions and web links.
4. _____ are used for making integrated circuits and computers.
5. I'll post the agenda for next week's meeting on the company's _____.
6. A home network is two or more computers _____ to form a local area network.

2. Complete these definitions with words from section A above.

1. _____: a disk that is completely blank, so information can't be recorded onto it.
2. _____: a network that allows communication between a company and the people it deals with.
3. _____: the process of sending data over a communication channel.
4. _____: to restart the computer, without switching it off completely.
5. _____: a web browser designed for small screens on hand-held devices.

3. Complete these sentences with words from section B above and make any necessary changes.

1. The program ran so slowly, I had to un_____ it.
2. Your financial information is fully en_____ and cannot be accessed.
3. Messages encrypted using a public key can only be de_____ by someone with the corresponding private key.
4. The computer compresses and de_____ a color image in less than a second.
5. Once you've written a program, you have to test it and de_____ it to remove all the errors.
6. In cyberspace, "up_____" means to send a file.
7. You can easily up_____ your files by adding or deleting information.

8. To de_____ your hard disk you need a disk optimizer, a program that will reorder your files.
9. There are minimum system requirements for your PC to be suitable for up_____ to Windows 10.

4. Complete this text with words from section C above.

A cybercafé



The term “cyber” first appeared in the word “cybernetics”, coined by Norbert Wiener in 1948 as the science of communication and control. In the 1960s, new “cyber” words emerged, such as *cybermen* and *cyborg*, referring to a being that is part robot, part human. In 1984, William Gibson popularized the term (1) _____ in his novel *Neuromancer*. He used it to describe a futuristic, virtual world of computers, but now it refers to the Internet. Other common words are *cyberworld*, *cybercafé*, and *cyberphobia* (a fear of computers). Companies are now worried about (2) _____: employees using the Net to do things that have nothing to do with their jobs, e.g. chat with friends.

The e- prefix is often added to activities that have moved from the physical world to the electronic alternative, e.g. *email* and *e-shopping*. Other well-known examples are: (3) _____, small magazines that are available on the Internet; (4) _____, doing business electronically on the Net; and (5) _____, providing instruction via optical discs, the Web or satellite TV.

Bibliografía

Marco Fabré, E. & S. Remacha Esteras. (2007). *Professional English in Use ICT* (Intermediate to Advanced). Cambridge, UK. Cambridge University Press.



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