

Master List of Morphemes

Suffixes, Prefixes, Roots

Suffix	Meaning	*Syntax	Exemplars
-er	one who, that which	noun	teacher, clippers, toaster
-er	more	adjective	faster, stronger, kinder
-ly	to act in a way that is...	adverb	kindly, decently, firmly
-able	capable of, or worthy of	adjective	honorable, predictable
-ible	capable of, or worthy of	adjective	terrible, responsible, visible
-hood	condition of being	noun	childhood, statehood, falsehood
-ful	full of, having	adjective	wonderful, spiteful, dreadful
-less	without	adjective	hopeless, thoughtless, fearless
-ish	somewhat like	adjective	childish, foolish, snobbish
-ness	condition or state of	noun	happiness, peacefulness, fairness
-ic	relating to	adjective	energetic, historic, volcanic
-ist	one who	noun	pianist, balloonist, specialist
-ian	one who	noun	librarian, historian, magician
-or	one who	noun	governor, editor, operator
-eer	one who	noun	mountaineer, pioneer, commandeer, profiteer, engineer, musketeer
o-logy	study of	noun	biology, ecology, mineralogy
-ship	art or skill of, condition, rank, group of	noun	leadership, citizenship, companionship, kingship
-ous	full of, having, possessing	adjective	joyous, jealous, nervous, glorious, victorious, spacious, gracious
-ive	tending to...	adjective	active, sensitive, creative
-age	result of an action	noun	marriage, acreage, pilgrimage
-ant	a condition or state	adjective	elegant, brilliant, pregnant
-ant	a thing or a being	noun	mutant, coolant, inhalant

-ent	someone who, something that inclined to	noun	student, president, nutrient adjective different, fluent, persistent
-ment	state or act of	noun	payment, basement, improvement
-ary	place for, collection of	noun	glossary, granary, library
-ary	relating to, condition	adjective	secondary, military, necessary
-ary	one who	noun	secretary, dignitary, emissary
-ize	to make	verb	hypnotize, fertilize, centralize
-ise	to make	verb	advise, advertise, improvise
-ure	action or condition of	noun	moisture, mixture, pleasure
-ion	act or condition	noun	action, friction, fusion, mission
-ation	act or condition	noun	starvation, condensation
-ance	act or condition of	noun	assistance, endurance, importance
-ence	act or condition of	noun	persistence, excellence, confidence
-ity	state or quality of	noun	prosperity, equality, security
-al	relating to	adjective	magical, comical, logical
(ti)-al	relating to	adjective	spatial, initial, essential
(si)-al	relating to	adjective	official, social, artificial
-ate	to make		calculate, activate, participate
-ate	state or quality of	adjective	desolate, ultimate, literate
-tude	condition of	noun	solitude, exactitude, fortitude
-ism	practice, belief	noun	feudalism, racism, monotheism

*The syntax column indicates the most-likely grammatical function of words ending with the given suffix.

Prefix	Meaning(s)	Exemplars
de-	from, reduce, or opposite	defrost, dethrone, dehydration
dis-	opposite	disagree, disadvantage, dishonest

trans-	across, over, through	transfer, translate, transcontinental
dia-	across, through	diagonal, diagnostic, diameter
ex-	out, from	expel, excavate, expatriate, exhale
e-	out, from	erase, evict, emit, evaporate, evacuate
mono-	one, single	monoplane, monopoly, monorail
uni-	one, single	unicycle, unicorn, universal
bi-	two	bicycle, biped, bilateral
di-	two, or in parts	digraph, divert, diameter
tri-	three	tricycle, triangle, triune
multi-	many, much	multicolored, multimillionaire
poly-	many, much	polygon, polyhedron, polyester
pre-	before	predict, prepare, preheat
post-	after	postwar, postscript, postdate
mal-	bad, evil	malcontent, maladjusted, malnutrition
mis-	wrong, bad	mistake, misspell, misunderstand
bene-	good, well	benefit, beneficial, benediction
pro-	forward, forth, before	protector, procreate, profession
sub-	under, beneath	substitute, subtraction, subway
re-	back, again	rewind, remember, retaliate
inter-	among, between	interstate, internet, interpersonal
intra-	within	intranet, intravenous, intranasal
co-	together, with	cooperate, coworker, copilot
com-	together, with	company, commit, committee
con-	together, with	concur, concert, contingent
col-	together, with	colleague, collide, collaborate
be-	to, completely	befriend, belie, belittle, bejeweled
non-	not	nonsense, nonrefundable, nonprofit
un-	not	uncomfortable, uncertain, untrue
in-	not	incapable, inedible, intolerant
im-	not	imperfect, immoral, imbalanced

il-	not	illiterate, illogical, illegal
ir-	not	irregular, irresponsible
in- (im-, il-, ir-)	in, into, on, upon (this prefix has two meanings: 'not' and 'in')	inside, insert, implant, impostor, infuriate, inflammable, incandescent
a-	not, negative	amoral, atonal, atheist
an-	not, negative	anarchist, anomaly, anathema
anti-	against, opposite	antiseptic, anticrime, antitrust, antisocial
contra- counter-	against, opposite against, opposite	contradict, contrary, contraceptive counterclockwise, counterfeit, counterbalance
en-	to cause to be, to put or go into or onto	enable, enrich, engulf, enflame
em-	to cause to be, to put or go into or onto	employ, embark, embellish

Greek and Latin roots are often written with slightly varied spellings, as shown below. The hyphen indicates the most typical connecting vowel (phon-o, hyd-o, etc.)

Greek Root	Meaning(s)	Exemplars
astr-o	stars, heavens	astronaut, astrology, astronomer
bi-o	life	biography, biosphere, biology
ge-o	earth, rocks	geology, geographer, geothermal
therm	heat, warm	thermostat, thermal, exothermic
aut-o	self	autism, automatic, autoimmune, autograph
hom-o	same, alike	homonym, homogenize, homophone
hydr-o	water	hydrogen, hydrology, hydroelectric
micro	small	microscope, microclimate, microcosm
macro	large	macroclimate, macroevolution

phon-o	sound, speech	telephone, phonics, symphony
scope	instrument used to observe, to see	telescope, microscope, kaleidoscope
graph	written	autograph, telegraph, geographer
phot-o	light	photograph, photon, photobiotic
tele	distant, far	telescope, television, telecommunications
meter, metr	instrument used to measure	metric, thermometer, barometer, chronometer
path, pass	suffering, disease	psychopath, pathogen, sympathy, compassion
psych-o	mind, mental	psychology, psychic, psychotropic
pan	all, whole	panorama, panacea, pantomime, pandemonium
zoo	animal	zoology, zootoxin, zoogeography
chron	time	chronic, chronological, synchronized
phobia	fear, intense dislike	claustrophobia, xenophobic, arachnophobia

Latin Root	Meaning(s)	Exemplars
port	to carry	transport, export, porter, portal, reporter
form	to shape	formation, reform, conform, formulation
tract	to pull	tractor, subtract, detract, traction, retractable
rupt	to break	disrupt, interrupt, rupture, corrupt
spect, spec	to see, to watch	inspect, suspect, spectator, respect, specimen
struct, stru	to build	construct, structure, instruct, construe
dict, dic	to tell, to say	dictionary, dictate, predict, indicate
flec, flex	to bend	flexible, reflector, genuflect, inflection,

		reflective
cred	to believe	credit, credentials, credulous, incredible
aqua	water	aquatic, aquarium, aquamarine
pel, puls	to drive, push	propel, compel, impel, repel, impulse, pulsate
fact, fac	to make, to do	factory, facilitate, factor, faction, factotum
ject	to throw, to throw down	inject, projectile, reject, subject, conjecture
vert, vers	to turn	reverse, versatile, convert, revert, divert
mit, mis	to send	missile, missionary, admission, emit, transmit
mort	to die	mortal, mortician, mortuary
script, scrib	to write	scribble, script, scripture, prescription
junct	to join	conjunction, junction, adjunct, juncture
cide	to kill, a killer	suicide, genocide, homicide
press	to force, squeeze	press, impress, express, compress, repress
spire	to breathe	respire, respiration, respiratory, conspire, inspire, perspire, expire, spirit, spirited, spiritual
grad, gress	to step	graduate, gradual, gradations, regress, congress, digress, transgress, egress, progression
cept, capt	to take, seize, receive	capture, captivity, intercept, exception