

Latin and Greek Prefixes: De- and Bi-

Many prefixes we use in English originally come from Greek or Latin words. The prefix *de-* is from Latin meaning “reduce” or “down” or “from.” The prefix *bi-* is from a Latin word meaning “two.” If you understand what the prefix means, it will help you understand the meaning of the whole word. For example, the root *grade* means “step” or “level.” Combine *de-* with *grade*, and it becomes the word *degrade*. Based on its original meaning, *degrade* means “reduce level” or lower the value or worth of something.

Use the list in the bank to make five different English words out of *de-* and *bi-*. You may add a suffix or change the spelling a little if needed. Write a sentence for each word you make and circle the word you made with the prefix. Be sure to use words for both *de-* and *bi-*.

Sentences:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.



Word Bank

annual
cide
crease
cycle
feat
form
lateral
ocular
ped
pend

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Sentences:

1. **Student's choice**
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



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