Prefixes

A prefix is a letter or a group of letters that attaches to the beginning of a word and helps to indicate or modify its meaning. An easy example would be the word ‘prefix’ itself! It begins with the prefix pre-, which means ‘before’.

| **PREFIX** | **MEANING** | **EXAMPLES** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| anti- | against, opposing | antibiotic, antidepressant, antidote |
| circum- | around | circumstance, circumvent, circumscribe |
| co- | with | co-worker, co-pilot, co-operation |
| de- | off, down, away from | devalue, defrost, demotivate |
| dis- | opposite of, not | disagree, disappear, disapprove |
| en- | cause to, put into | encode, embed, engulf |
| ex- | former, out of | ex-president, ex-boyfriend, exterminate |
| extra- | beyond, more than | extracurricular, extraordinary, extra-terrestrial |
| fore- | before | forecast, forehead, foreword |
| hyper- | over, above | hyperactive, hyperbole, hyperventilate |
| infra- | beneath, below | infrastructure, infrared, infrasonic |
| micro- | small | microscope, microbiology, microfilm, microwave |
| mis- | wrongly | misinterpret, misfire, mistake, misunderstand |
| mono- | one, singular | monotone, monochrome, monolithic |
| non- | not, without | nonsense, nonentity, nondescript |
| omni- | all, every | omnibus, omnivore, omnipotent |
| pre- | before | prefix, predetermine, preschool |
| semi- | half | semicircle, semi-final, semiconscious |
| therm- | heat | thermometer, thermostat, thermodynamic |
| tri- | three | triangle, tripod, tricycle |
| un- | not | unfriendly, undone, unknown |