Prefixes and Suffixes

Prefixes and suffixes are groups of letters that can be added to the root of many words to modify the meaning of those words. Learn prefixes and suffixes to quickly improve your vocabulary.

Here are some examples of prefixes and suffixes that you can use in your writing.

Prefixes

A prefix is added to beginning of a word.

**Prefix: Hyper-**

- **Meaning:** Over, more than
- **Example:** Hypersonic, hypersensitive

**Prefix: Hypo-**

- **Meaning:** Under, less than
- **Example:** Hypodermic, hypoglycemia

**Prefix: Inter-**

- **Meaning:** Between, connecting
- **Example:** Intervene, international

**Prefix: Mega-**

- **Meaning:** Enlarge, large
- **Example:** Megaphone

**Prefix: Micro-**

- **Meaning:** Tiny
- **Example:** Micrometer, microscopic

**Prefix: Neo-**

- **Meaning:** Recent, new
- **Example:** Neologism, neophyte

**Prefix: Post-**

- **Meaning:** After
- **Example:** Postwar, postscript
Prefix: Pre-
  
  **Meaning:** Before  
  **Example:** Previous, prepublication

Prefix: Pro-
  
  **Meaning:** Before, onward  
  **Example:** Project, propel

Prefix: Re-
  
  **Meaning:** Again, back  
  **Example:** Review, recreate

Prefix: Sub-
  
  **Meaning:** Under, beneath  
  **Example:** Subhuman, submarine

Prefix: Super-
  
  **Meaning:** Over, above  
  **Example:** Supercargo, superimpose

Prefix: Syn-
  
  **Meaning:** At the same time  
  **Example:** Synonym, synchronize

Prefix: Trans-
  
  **Meaning:** Across, over  
  **Example:** Transport, transition

**Suffixes**
A suffix is added to the end of a word.

**Suffix:** -acy
  
  **Meaning:** State or quality  
  **Example:** Democracy, privacy

**Suffix:** -al
  
  **Meaning:** Act of  
  **Example:** Rebuttal, refusal
Suffix: -ance, -ence

Meaning: State or quality of
Example: Maintenance, eminence

Suffix: -dom

Meaning: Place or state of being
Example: Freedom, thralldom

Suffix: -er, -or

Meaning: One who
Example: Trainer, investor

Suffix: -ism

Meaning: Doctrine or belief
Example: Liberalism, Taoism

Suffix: -ist

Meaning: Characteristic of one who
Example: Organist, physicist

Suffix: -ity

Meaning: Quality of
Example: Veracity, opacity

Suffix: -ness

Meaning: State of being
Example: Watchfulness, cleanliness

Suffix: -ship

Meaning: Position held
Example: Professorship, fellowship

Suffix: -sion, -tion

Meaning: State of being or action
Example: Digression, transition
Verb suffixes
Verb suffixes are added to the end of word roots to create verbs.

Suffix: -ate
- **Meaning:** Cause to be
- **Example:** Concentrate, regulate

Suffix: -en
- **Meaning:** Cause to be or become
- **Example:** Enliven, blacken

Suffix: -ify, -fy
- **Meaning:** Make or cause to become
- **Example:** Unify, terrify, amplify

Suffix: -ize
- **Meaning:** Cause to become
- **Example:** Magnetize, civilize

Adjective suffixes
Adjective suffixes are added to the end of word roots to create adjectives.

Suffix: -able, -ible
- **Meaning:** Capable of being
- **Example:** Assumable, edible

Suffix: -al
- **Meaning:** Pertaining to
- **Example:** Regional, political

Suffix: -esque
- **Meaning:** Reminiscent of
- **Example:** Picturesque, statuesque

Suffix: -ful
- **Meaning:** Having a notable quality
- **Example:** Colourful, sorrowful
Suffix: -ic

Meaning: Pertaining to
Example: Poetic, mythic

Suffix: -ish

Meaning: Having the quality of
Example: Prudish, clownish

Suffix: -ious, -ous

Meaning: Of or characterized by
Example: Famous, nutritious

Suffix: -ive

Meaning: Having the nature of
Example: Active, aggressive