

A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF PREFIXES, SUFFIXES, AND ROOTS

Common Prefixes		
Prefix	Meaning	Examples
ab-, a-, abs-	away from	abhor — to withdraw from in fear or disgust abscond — to run away
ad-, a-, ac-, af-, ag-, an-, ap-, ar-, as-, at-	to; toward	adapt — to fit to accede — to agree to
ambi-	both	ambivalent — having two feelings
amphi-	on both sides; around	amphibian — an animal that lives first in the water then adapts to land life amphitheater — a theater with seats all around
ante-	before	antebellum — before the war
anti-	against	antifreeze — a substance added to a liquid to prevent freezing
auto-	self	automobile — a self-propelled vehicle
bi-	two	bifocals — glasses with lenses for two focuses
circum-	around	circumscribe — to draw around
com-, con-, co-, col-	with; together	combine — to bring together conjoin — to join together co-worker — one who works with
contra-, contro-, counter-	against	contradict — to say the opposite counteract — to act against
de-	away from; down; the opposite of	depart — to go away from decline — to turn down deactivate — to make inactive
di-	twice	dioxide — an oxide with two atoms of oxygen in a molecule
dia-	across, through	diagonal — across or through a figure diagnose — to determine what is wrong through knowledge
dis-	apart; not	disperse — to scatter widely dishonest — not honest
dys-	bad; ill	dysfunction — a poor functioning

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
epi-	upon	epitaph — an inscription upon a tombstone (upon burial)
equi-	equal; equally	equitable — fair
ex-, ej-, ef-	out; from	excavate — to hollow out eject — to throw out effuse — to pour out
extra-	outside; beyond	extraordinary — outside the usual
fore-	before; in front of	foresee — to anticipate
geo-	earth	geology — the study of the earth
homo-	same; equal; alike	homonym — a word with the same pronunciation as another word
hyper-	over; too much	hypertension — unusually high tension
hypo-	under; too little	hypodermic — under the skin
in-, il-, ig-, ir-, im-	not	inactive — not active illegal — not legal ignoble — not noble irreverent — not reverent improbable — not probable
in-, il-, ir-, im-	in; into	inject — to put in illuminate — to light up irradiate — to shine on implant — to fix firmly in
inter-	between; among	interurban — between cities
intra-, intro-	within, inside of	intravenous — directly into a vein introvert — one who looks inside himself
mal-, male-	bad; wrong; ill	malfunction — to fail to function correctly malevolent — wishing harm to others
mis-	wrong; badly	mistreat — to treat badly
mis-, miso-	hatred	misanthrope — one who hates men
mono-	one; alone	monologue — a speech by one person
neo-	new	neologism — a new word or a new meaning for an old word
non-	not; the reverse of	nonsense — something that makes no sense
omni-	all; everywhere	omnipresent — present everywhere
pan-	all	pandemic — existing over a whole area
per-	by; through;	pervade — to be present throughout

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Prefix	Meaning	Examples
poly-	many	polyglot — speaking or writing several languages
post-	after	postwar — after the war
pro-	forward; going; ahead of; supporting	proceed — to go forward proboscis — a snout prowar — supporting war
re-	again; back	retell — to tell again retroactive — applying to things that have already taken place
se-	apart	secede — to withdraw
semi-	half; partly	semicircle — half a circle semiliterate — able to read and write a little
sub-	under; less than	submarine — underwater subconscious — beneath the consciousness
super-	over; above	superimpose — to put something greater over something else superstar — a star greater than the others
syn-, sym-, syl-, sys-	with; at the same time	synchronize — to make things agree symmetry — balance on the two sides of a dividing line
tele-	far	telepathy — communication by thought alone
trans-	across	transcontinental — across the continent
un-	not	unhelpful — not helpful

Common Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-able, -ible, -ble	able to, capable of being	viable — able to live edible — capable of being eaten
-acious, -cious	having the quality of	tenacious — holding firmly
-al	of; like	nocturnal — of the night
-ance, -ancy	the act of; a state of being	performance — the act of performing truancy — the act of being truant
-ant, -ent	one who	occupant — one who occupies respondent — one who responds

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-ar, -ary	connected with; concerning	ocular — pertaining to the eye beneficiary — one who receives benefits
-ence	the act, fact, or quality of	existence — the quality of being
-er, -or	one who does	teacher — one who teaches visitor — one who visits
-ful	full of; having qualities of	fearful — full of fear masterful — having the qualities of a master
-fy	to make	deify — to make into a god
-ic, -ac	of; like; pertaining to	cryptic — hidden cardiac — pertaining to the heart
-il, -ile	pertaining to	civil — pertaining to citizens infantile — pertaining to infants
-ion	the act or condition of	correction — the act of correcting
-ism	the philosophy, act, or practice of	patriotism — support of one's country
-ist	one who does, makes, or is occupied with	artist — one who is occupied with art
-ity, -ty, -y	the state or character of	unity — the state of being one novelty — the quality of being novel or new
-ive	containing the nature of, giving or leaning toward	pensive — thoughtful
-less	without; lacking	heartless — cruel; without a heart
-logue	a particular kind of speaking or writing	dialogue — a conversation or interchange
-logy	a kind of speaking; a study or science	eulogy — a speech or writing in praise of someone theology — the study of God and related matters
-ment	the act of; the state of	alignment — the act of aligning retirement — the state of being retired
-ness	the quality of	eagerness — the quality of being eager
-ory	having the nature of, a place or thing for	laudatory — showing praise laboratory — a place where work is done

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<i>Suffix</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
-ous, -ose	full of; having	dangerous — full of danger verbose — wordy
-ship	the art or skill of; the state or quality of being	leadership — the ability to lead
-some	full of; like	troublesome — full of trouble
-tude	the state or quality of	servitude — slavery or bondage
-y	full of, somewhat; somewhat like	musty — having a stale odor chilly — somewhat cold willowy — like a willow

Common Roots

<i>Root</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
acr	sharp, bitter	acid — sharp, bitter
act, ag	to do; to act	activity — action agent — one who does
acu	sharp; keen	acuity — keenness
alt	high	exalt — to raise or lift up
anim	life; mind	animate — to make alive
ann	year	annual — yearly
anthrop	man, mankind	misanthrope — one who hates people
apt	fit	adapt — to fit to
arch	to rule	patriarch — a father and ruler
aud	to hear	audience — those who hear
bas	low	debase — to make lower
belli	war	bellicose — hostile, warlike
ben, bene	well; good	benevolent — doing or wishing good
bio	life	biology — the study of living things
brev	short	abbreviate — to shorten
cad, cas	to fall	cadence — the fall of the voice in speaking, movement in sound cascade — a small waterfall
cap, capt, cip,	to take or hold	captivity — one who is caught and held
cept, ceive, ceit		receive — to take

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<i>Root</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
cav	hollow	excavate — to hollow out
cede, ceed, cess	to go; to give in	precede — to go before access — a means of giving to
chrom	color	chromatic — the order of events
chron, chrono	time	synchronize — to make agree in time chronology — the order of events
cid, cis	to cut, to kill	incisive — cutting into, sharp homicide — the killing of a man by another
din	to lean, to bend	decline — to bend or turn downward
dud, dus, dos, daud, claus	to close, to shut	exclude — to shut out claustrophobia — fear of closed places
cogn, cognit	to know, to learn	cognizant — aware recognition — knowing on sight
cor, cord	heart	accord — agreement
corp, corpor	body	corporal — bodily
cred, credit	to believe	credible — believable
crypt	hidden	cryptic — with hidden meaning
cum	to heap up	cumulative — increasing by additions
cur	to care	accurate — careful and precise
curr, curs, cours	to run	current — the flow of running water
da, date	to give	date — a given time
dem, demo	people	demography — a statistical study of the population
di	day	diary — a daily record
dic, dict	to say	diction — wording; verbal expression indict — to make a formal accusation
doc, doct	to teach	doctrine — something taught
dol	grief, pain	doleful — sorrowful
domin	to rule, to master	dominion — rule; a ruled territory
dorm	to sleep	dormant — sleeping, inactive
duc, duct	to lead	induce — to lead to action aqueduct — a pipe or waterway
dynam	power	dynamite — a powerful explosive

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Root	Meaning	Examples
ego	I	egocentric — seeing everything in relation to oneself
eu	good, beautiful	euphonious — having a pleasant sound
fac, fact, fic, fec, fect	to make, to do	facile — easy to do artifact — an object made by man fiction — something that has been made up
fer, ferr, lat	to carry, to bring or bear	refer — to carry to something or somebody else
fid	faith; trust	confide — to tell a trusted person
fin	end; limit	final — coming at the end
fort, force	strong	fortitude — strength enforce — to give strength to
frag, fract	to break	fragment — a part broken from the whole
gen	birth	generate — give birth to
gen, gener	kind; race	general — applying to a whole class or kind gender — classification of words by sex
gnos	to know	agnostic — one who believes people cannot know whether God exists
grad, gress	to step, to go	graduate — to go from one state to another progress — to move forward
graph, gram	writing	graphic — relating to writing telegram — a written message sent over a distance
helio	sun	heliolatriy — sun worship
hydro	water	hydrant — a pipe from which one draws water
jac, jact, jec, ject	to throw	trajectory — the path of an object that has been thrown or shot project — to propose; to put forward
junct	to join	junction — a joining
jur	to swear	perjure — to lie under oath
labor	to work	elaborate — worked out carefully
leg, lect	to gather, to choose	legion — a large number gathered together elect — to choose
leg	law	legislate — to make laws
liber	book	library — a book collection

Root	Meaning	Examples
liber	free	liberation — freedom
loc	place	dislocate — to displace
loqu, locut	to talk	loquacious — talkative elocution — style of speaking
luc	light	elucidate — to clarify ("throw light on")
mang	great	magnanimous — of noble mind; generous magnate — an important person
man, mani, manu	hand	manipulate — to work with hands manuscript — a document written by hand
mar	the sea	maritime — having to do with the sea
medi	middle	intermediate — in the middle
meter, metr, mens	to measure	thermometer — an instrument to measure temperature symmetry — similarity of measurement on both sides immense — very large (immeasurable)
micro	very small	microbe — an organism too small to be seen with the naked eye
min, mini	small	minute — very tiny miniature — a small copy of something
mit, mitt, miss	to send	admit — to allow in missile — a projectile
mon, monit	to advise, warn, remind	monument — a plaque, statue, building, etc., set up to remind one of someone or something premonition — an advance warning
mort, morti	to die	mortal — destined to die moribund — dying
mov, mot, mob	to move	remove — to move away emotion — strong (moving) feelings immobile — not movable
mut	to change	immutable — never changing
nat, nasc	born	prenatal — before birth nascent — coming into being; being born
nav	ship	circumnavigate — to sail around
noctum	night	nocturnal — taking place at night

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<i>Root</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
nomy	law, arranged order	astronomy — the science of the stars
nov, novus	new	innovation — something new
onym	name	anonymous — without a name
oper	to work	operative — capable of working
pac	peace	pacify — to calm
par	equal	disparate — not alike; distinct
pars, part	part	depart — to go away from
pater, patr	father	paternal — fatherly patriarch — a father and a ruler
path, pat, pas	feeling, suffering	empathy — "feeling with" another person patient — suffering without complaint passion — strong emotion
ped, pede, pod	foot	pedestal — the bottom of a statute, column, etc. impede — to hinder podium — a platform on which to stand
pel, puls	to drive	expel — to drive out repulse — to drive back
pend, pens	to hang; to weigh; to pay	pendulous — hanging loosely pensive — thoughtful pension — a payment to a person after a certain age
pet, petit	to seek	impetus — a motive petition — to request
phil, philo	loving	philanthropy — a desire to help mankind philosophy — a love of knowledge
phobia	fear	hydrophobia — fear of water
phon, phone	sound	symphony — harmony of sounds telephone — an instrument for sending sound over a distance
plac	to please	placate — to stop from being angry
polis	city	metropolis — a major city
pon, pos, posit, pose	to place	proponent — a person who makes a suggestion or supports a cause
port, portat	to carry	porter — one who carries transportation — a means of carrying
psych, psycho	mind	psychology — the science of the mind

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<i>Root</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
quer, quisit	to ask	query — to question inquisition — a questioning
quies	quiet	acquiesce — to agree without protest
radi	ray	irradiate — to shine light on
rap, rapt	to seize	rapine — the act of seizing other's property by force rapture — being seized or carried away by emotion
rid, ris	to laugh	ridiculous — laughable risible — causing laughter
rog, rogate	to ask	prerogative — a prior right interrogate — to question
rupt	to break	disrupt — to break up
sat, satis	enough	sate — to provide with enough or more than enough satisfy — to meet the needs of
schis, schiz	to cut	schism — a split or division schizophrenia — a mental disorder characterized by a separation of the thoughts and emotions
sci	to know	science — knowledge
scop	to watch, to view	telescope — an instrument for seeing things at a distance
scrib, script	to write	describe — to tell or write about transcript — a written copy
sec, sect	to cut	sectile — cuttable with a knife bisect — to cut in two
sed, sess, sid	to sit	sediment — material that settles to the bottom (in liquid) session — a meeting preside — to have authority
sent, sens	to feel, to think	sentiment — feeling sensitive — responding to stimuli
sequ, secu, secut	to follow	sequence — order consecutive — one following another
solv, solut	to loosen	absolve — to free from guilt solution — the method of working out an answer

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<i>Root</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
soph	wise, wisdom	sophisticate — a worldly-wise person
spec, spect, spic	to look, to appear	specimen — an example inspect — to look over perspicacious — having sharp judgment
spir, spirit	to breathe	expire — to exhale; to die spirit — life
sta, stat	to stand	stable — steady stationary — fixed, unmoving
stru, struct	to build	construe — to explain or deduce the meaning structure — a building
suas, suad	to urge	persuasive — having the power to cause something to change dissuade — to change someone's course
sum, sumpt	to take	assume — to take on resumption — taking up again
tact, tang	to touch	tactile — able to be touched or felt intangible — unable to be touched
tempor	time	temporal — lasting only for a time; temporary
ten, tent, tain	to hold	untenable — unable to be held retentive — holding maintain — to keep or keep up
tend, tens	to stretch	extend — to stretch out or draw out tension — tautness
terr	land	territory — a portion of land
the, theo	god	atheist — one who believes there is no God theocracy — rule by god or by persons claiming to represent Him
thermo	heat	thermal — having to do with heat
tract	to draw	attract — to draw
trud, trus	to thrust	protrude — to stick out intrusive — pushing into or upon something
un, uni	one	unanimous — of one opinion uniform — of one form
urb	city	suburb — a district near a city
ut, util	to use; useful	utile — the quality of being useful

<i>Root</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
vac	empty	vacuum — empty space
ven, vent	to come	convene — to meet together advent — an arrival
ver	true	verify — to prove to be true
verd	green	verdant — green
vert, vers	to turn	advert — to turn away
vi, via	way	deviate — to turn off the prescribed way via — by way of
vid, vis	to see	evident — apparent; obvious invisible — unable to be seen
vinc, vict	to conquer	convince — to overcome the doubts of victory — an overcoming
vit, viv	to live	vital — alive vivacious — lively
voc, voke, vocat	to call	vocal — spoken or uttered aloud invoke — to call on vocation — a calling
void	empty	devoid — without
volv, volut	to roll or turn around	evolve — to develop by stages, to unfold
vol	to fly	volatile — vaporizing quickly