

English Prefixes, Suffixes, and Roots

Prefixes: pp. 1 – 3

Suffixes: pp. 4 – 6

Roots: pp. 7 - 10

Prefixes

<i>ac-, ad-, af-, ag-, al-, ap-, as-, at-</i>	to, toward, near, adjacent to	aside (adverb): to or toward the side accompany (verb): to go with someone as a companion adjust (verb): to correct, to move closer to a correct position
<i>a-, an-</i>	not, without	apolitical (adjective): without interest in politics anarchy (noun): without a ruler, absence of government
<i>ab-, abs-</i>	away from, off	abrupt (adjective): unexpected change abnormal (adjective): not normal
<i>ambi-, amphi</i>	both sides	ambidextrous (adjective): able to use both hands equally well amphibian (noun): an animal with characteristics of both fish and reptiles
<i>ante-</i>	before	anterior (adjective): before or near the front
<i>anti-</i>	against	antiwar (noun): against war
<i>arch-</i>	chief, principal, extreme	archenemy (noun): the principal enemy
<i>audio-</i>	hearing, sound	audiorecording (noun): a recording of sound
<i>auto-</i>	self	autobiography (noun): writing about yourself automotive (adjective): related to self-propelled machines
<i>bi-</i>	two	bicycle (noun): a vehicle with two wheels biped (noun): a two-footed animal
<i>bibli-, biblio-</i>	book	bibliography (noun): a list of books referred to in a text
<i>cat-, cata-, cath-</i>	down, with	category (noun): a class or set to which a thing belongs catalogue (noun): a book or pamphlet that lists and describes
<i>circum-</i>	around	circumvent (verb): to manage to get around a situation circumference (noun): the distance around a circle
<i>co-, cog-, col-, com-, con-, cor-</i>	together, with	cognate (adjective): related, similar in nature collaborate (verb): to work together correlation (noun): a relation between two or more things
<i>contra-</i>	against, opposite	contradict (verb) to state the opposite
<i>cosmo-</i>	universe	cosmopolitan (adjective): having a worldwide rather than a limited scope
<i>de-</i>	to do the opposite, to take away from	decrease (verb): to grow smaller, to become less desensitize (verb): to take away sensitivity
<i>dent-, denti-, dento-</i>	tooth	dentist (noun): a doctor specializing in teeth, jaws, and mouth
<i>dia-</i>	through, across	diameter (noun): the distance across a circle diagonal (adjective): passing through two non-adjacent corners

Prefixes, Suffixes, and Roots 2

<i>di-, dif-, dis-</i>	apart, separate, two, opposite of, not, exclude	divide (verb): to separate into two or more parts differ (verb): to be unlike distrust (verb): to have no confidence or trust disagree (verb): to not agree with someone or something
<i>e-, ex-</i>	out, out of, from	emit (verb) to send out expel (verb): to force out exclude (verb): to close out of, keep out
<i>eco-</i>	habitat, environment	ecology (noun): the study of the environment
<i>en-, em-</i>	put into	enamored (verb): to cause to love, to "put" someone "into" love empower (verb): to give power, to put into power
<i>equa-, equi-</i>	equal	equator (noun): a line that divides the world into two equal halves
<i>extra-</i>	beyond	extraordinary (adjective): going beyond normal
<i>for-, fore-</i>	before	foresee (verb): to see beforehand
<i>ge-, geo-</i>	earth, ground, soil	geology (noun): the study of the earth
<i>hemi-</i>	half	hemisphere (noun): half of a sphere
<i>hetero-</i>	different	heterosexual (adjective): attracted to someone of the opposite sex
<i>homo-</i>	same	homogeneous (adjective): having a uniform structure of composition
<i>hydr-, hydro-</i>	water	hydroelectric (adjective): producing electricity using waterpower
<i>hyper-</i>	above, beyond	hyperactive (adjective): being excessively active
<i>il-, im-, in-, ir,</i>	not, in	illegible (adjective): cannot be read inaction (noun): lack of motion, idle
<i>in-, im-, il-</i>	in, into	instead (adverb): in place of, an alternative import (verb): to bring into a country from another country
<i>inter-</i>	between, among	interject (verb): to throw something between other things international (adjective): between nations
<i>mal-</i>	bad	malfunction (noun): when something does not work properly
<i>micr-, micro-</i>	small	microscope (noun): an instrument used to see very small objects
<i>mis-</i>	wrong	misinterpret (verb): to interpret incorrectly
<i>mono</i>	one	monolingual (adjective): using or knowing only one language
<i>multi-</i>	many	multiply (verb): to increase in number
<i>non-</i>	not, no	nonsense (noun): something with no meaning or no sense
<i>ob-, oc-, of-, op-</i>	toward, against, in the way	obtain (verb): to gain or get, to get a hold of oppose (verb): to be against, to stand in the way of something
<i>omni-</i>	all, universally	omnivorous (adjective): eats both plants and animals

Prefixes, Suffixes, and Roots 3

over-	excessive, above	overwork (verb): to have too much work
pan-	all, completely	pandemic (adjective): occurring over a wide geographic area
para-	beside	paralegal (noun): someone who works alongside a lawyer
per-	through	perform (verb): to carry out an act
phot-, photo-	light	photography (noun): producing an image by exposing film to light
post-	after	postpone (verb): to put off to a later time, to delay
pre-	before	precede (verb): to go before, to come in front of
pro-	for, forward	propel (verb): to push forward
quadr-	four	quadrilateral (adjective): having four sides
re-	back, again	redo (verb): to do again
retro-	backward	retrospect (noun) to look back at past events
semi	half	semiannual (adjective): occurring twice a year
sub-, suc-, suf-, sup-, sur-, sus	under, beneath, near, from below, secretly, above, up	submarine (adjective): underwater support (verb): to hold up, too keep up
super-	over, above	superimpose (verb): to place on top of something else
syn-, sym-	together, at the same time	sympathy (noun): sharing another person's feelings
tele-, tel-	distant, over a distance	telephone (noun): a device to transmit sound over a distance
trans-	across, beyond, change	transform (verb): to change shape
tri-	three	tripod (noun): a three-legged stand
un-	not, against, opposite	unceasing (adjective): never ending, continuous
uni-	one	uniform (adjective): having the same form or consistency
util-	use	utility (noun): something useful or designed for use

Suffixes

Suffixes to Create NOUNS

<i>-acy,</i> <i>-cy</i>	state or quality	privacy: the state of being alone infancy: the state of being a baby or young child
<i>-age</i>	activity, or result of action	courage: having the spirit to overcome fear
<i>-al</i>	action, result of action	referral: the action of directing a person to another place
<i>-an</i>	person	artisan: a craftsman
<i>-ance,</i> <i>-ence</i>	action, state, quality or process	resistance: the action of opposing something independence: the state of not being under the control of others
<i>-ancy,</i> <i>-ency</i>	state, quality or capacity	vacancy: an empty room or position agency: the capacity to exert power or influence, a position or person that performs a function
<i>-ant,</i> <i>-ent</i>	an agent, something that performs the action	disinfectant: something that cleans dependent: a thing supported or determined by another
<i>-ate</i>	state, office, function	candidate: a person nominated for an office or position
<i>-ation</i>	action, resulting state	specialization: the result of being distinguished by one quality or ability
<i>-dom</i>	place, state of being	wisdom: possessing knowledge
<i>-er,</i> <i>-or</i>	person or thing that does something	baker: a person who bakes collector: a person who collects or gathers things
<i>-ful</i>	an amount or quantity that fills	mouthful: an amount that fills the mouth
<i>-ian,</i> <i>-an</i>	related to, one that is	politician: a person works in politics
<i>-ia</i>	names, diseases	phobia: an illogical fear of something
<i>-iatry</i>	art of healing	psychiatry: branch of medicine dealing with the mind and emotions
<i>-ic,</i> <i>-ics</i>	related to the arts and sciences	arithmetic: a branch of math dealing with non-negative numbers economics: the social science related to studying business
<i>-ice</i>	act	malice: the desire to do evil
<i>-ing</i>	material made for, activity, result of an activity	swimming: the activity of swimming through water building: the result of making a structure
<i>-ion</i>	condition or action	abduction: the action of carrying someone away by force
<i>-ism</i>	doctrine, belief, action or conduct	formalism: a belief in sticking to prescribed forms
<i>-ist</i>	person or member	podiatrist: a foot doctor
<i>-ite</i>	product or part	graphite: a black material used in making pencils
<i>-ity,</i> <i>-ty</i>	state or quality	novelty: something new or unusual

<i>-ive</i>	condition	native: a person born in a specific place
<i>-ment</i>	condition or result	document: official paper showing proof or evidence of something
<i>-ness</i>	state, condition, quality	kindness: the quality of being kind or nice
<i>-ology</i>	the study of	biology: the study of life
<i>-or</i>	condition or activity	valor: bravery, courage
<i>-ory</i>	place for, serves for	territory: an area around a place
<i>-ship</i>	status, condition	friendship: the state of being a friend
<i>-ure</i>	act, condition, process, function	exposure: the condition of being exposed or unprotected
<i>-y</i>	state, condition, result of an activity	society: companionship victory: the result of winning something

Suffixes to Create VERBS

<i>-ate</i>	cause to be	graduate: to give a degree to, to pass from one stage to the next
<i>-ed</i>	past tense	attained: something that has been reached or grasped
<i>-en</i>	to cause to become	moisten: to cause to become moist or damp
<i>-er, -or</i>	action	ponder: to think about clamor: to make noise, to call for loudly
<i>-ify</i>	cause	specify: to name or indicate in detail
<i>-ing</i>	present participle	depicting: showing, describing with images or pictures
<i>-ize</i>	cause	fantasize: to create images in the mind
<i>-ure</i>	act	conjecture: to come to a conclusion by supposition or guesswork

Suffixes to Create ADJECTIVES

<i>-able, -ible</i>	worth, ability	solvable: able to be solved or explained incredible: not able to be believed, amazing
<i>-al, -ial, -ical</i>	quality, relation	structural: related to the physical make up of a thing territorial: related to nearby or local areas categorical: related to a category, absolute
<i>-ant, -ent, -ient</i>	indicating, being	important: indicating value or worth dependent: relying upon something else
<i>-ar, -ary</i>	resembling, related to	spectacular: related to something that is eye-catching or amazing unitary: related to units or single groups representing quantities
<i>-ate</i>	kind of state	inviolable: not disturbed, pure
<i>-ed</i>	having the quality of	terraced: having terraces or steps

<i>-en</i>	material	silken: made from silk, a fiber produced by worms
<i>-er</i>	comparative	brighter: more light
<i>-est</i>	superlative	strongest: having the most strength
<i>-ful</i>	having, giving, marked by	fanciful: marked by imagination
<i>-ic</i>	quality, relation	generic: related to a whole group
<i>-ile</i>	having the qualities of	projectile: something thrown with an outside force
<i>-ing</i>	activity	cohering: the act of sticking together
<i>-ish</i>	having the character of, about, almost	newish: modern, recent
<i>-ive, -ative, -itive</i>	having the quality of	festive: having the quality of a festival or party cooperative: being able or willing to work together sensitive: easily felt, responsive to the senses
<i>-less</i>	without, missing	penniless: a person without any money
<i>-ous, -eous, -ose, -ious</i>	having the quality of, relating to	adventurous: characterized by the desire to seek adventures courageous: characterized by courage, brave verbose: having more words than needed
<i>-y</i>	marked by, having	hungry: having hunger, marked by a desire

Suffixes to Create ADVERBS

<i>-fold</i>	in a manner of, marked by	fourfold: being four times as great
<i>-ly</i>	in the manner of	fluently: marked by ease of movement, effortlessly smooth
<i>-ward</i>	in a direction or manner	homeward: toward home
<i>-wise</i>	in the manner of, with regard to	timewise: with regard to time

Roots

A	<i>act, ag</i>	do, act, drive (Ltn)	active (adj): moving about
	<i>am, ami</i>	love, like (Ltn)	amorous (adj): loving
	<i>anim</i>	mind, life, spirit, anger (Ltn)	animal (n): a living creature
	<i>annu, enni</i>	yearly (Ltn)	annual (adj): yearly
	<i>auc, aug, aut</i>	to originate, to increase (Ltn)	augment (vb): to increase, to add to
	<i>aud, audit, aur</i>	hear (Ltn)	audible (adj): can be heard
B	<i>bene, ben</i>	good, well, gentle (Ltn)	benefit (n): something that gives a good advantage
	<i>bio, bi</i>	life (Grk)	biography (n): a book written about a person's life
	<i>bibli, biblio</i>	book (Grk)	bibliophile (n): a person who likes or collects books
	<i>brev</i>	short (Ltn)	abbreviate (vb): to shorten
C	<i>cad, cap, cas, ceiv, cept, cid</i>	to take, to seize, to hold (Ltn)	receive (vb): to take in, to acquire
	<i>ceas, cede, ceed, cess</i>	go, yield (Ltn)	exceed (vb): to go beyond a limit, to be greater than
	<i>chron</i>	time (Grk)	chronological (adj): arranged in order of time or sequence
	<i>clam, claim</i>	shout (Ltn)	clamor (vb): to make noise
	<i>cogn, gnos</i>	know to know (Ltn)	recognize (vb): to know, to identify
	<i>corp</i>	body (Ltn)	corporate (adj): formed into a body or association, united in one group
	<i>cre, cresc, cret</i>	grow (Ltn)	create (vb): to originate, to produce through imagination
	<i>cred</i>	trust, believe (Ltn)	incredible (adj): unbelievable
	<i>cour, cur, curr, curs</i>	run, course (Ltn)	occur (vb): to happen, to come to mind
	D	<i>dic, dict, dit</i>	say, speak (Ltn)
<i>doc, doct</i>		teach, prove (Ltn)	docile (adj): obedient, easily taught
<i>dog, dox</i>		thought, idea (Grk)	dogma (n): an established opinion
<i>dec, dign</i>		suitable (Ltn)	decent (adj): conforming to standards, suitable, good
<i>duc, duct</i>		lead (Ltn)	conduct (vb): to lead or guide, (n) - a person's behavior
<i>-ectomy</i>		surgical removal	appendectomy (noun): the surgical removal of the appendix
E	<i>ev, et</i>	time, age (Ltn)	medieval (adj): related to the Middle Ages (500 - 1500 AD)
	<i>fac, fact, fec, fic, fas, fea</i>	make do, do (Ltn)	feasible (adj): capable of being done
F	<i>fer</i>	bear, carry (Ltn)	infer (vb): to come to a conclusion from looking at facts, to guess

Prefixes, Suffixes, and Roots 8

	<i>fict, feign, fain</i>	shape, make, fashion (Ltn)	fiction (n): something produced from imagination, an invented story
	<i>fid</i>	belief, faith (Ltn)	confide (vb): to trust, to trust another person with a secret
	<i>fig</i>	shape, form (Ltn)	figure (n): shape, pattern, drawing (vb) - decide, plan, decipher
	<i>flu, fluct, flux</i>	flow (Ltn)	fluid (adj): capable of flowing, a smooth easy style (n) - a liquid
	<i>form</i>	shape (Ltn)	format (n): the shape and size of something
	<i>fract, frag, frai</i>	break (Ltn)	fracture (v): to break, like a bone
G	<i>gen, gin</i>	to give birth, kind (Grk)	generate (vb): to produce, to create
	<i>geo</i>	earth (Grk)	geography (n): a science that describes the earth's surface
	<i>gor</i>	to gather, to bring together (Grk)	category (n): a class or set in which a thing is placed
	<i>grad, gress, gree</i>	step, go, move (Ltn)	degree (n): a step or stage in a process
	<i>gram, graph, graf</i>	write, draw (Grk)	graphic (adj): written, drawn, vividly shown
H	<i>her, hes</i>	to stick (Ltn)	adhere (vb): to stick
	<i>itis</i>	disease or inflammation	arthritis (n): inflammation of the joints
J	<i>jac, ject, jet</i>	to throw (Ltn)	reject (vb): to throw out, unwilling to accept
	<i>jug, junct, just</i>	to join (Ltn)	junction (n): a place at which two things join
L	<i>lex, leag, leg</i>	law (Ltn)	legal (adj): based on law
	<i>lect, leg, lig</i>	choose, gather, select, read (Ltn)	collect (vb): to gather, to bring together
	<i>loc</i>	place, area (Ltn)	location (n): a place, a position occupied
	<i>log</i>	say, speech, word, reason, study (Grk)	logic (n): the study of reason, reasoning
	<i>luc, lum, lust</i>	light (Ltn)	translucent (adj): permitting some light to come through
M	<i>man</i>	hand, make, do (Ltn)	manage (vb): to handle with skill, to be able to do
	<i>mem</i>	recall, remember (Ltn)	memory (n): the ability to recall or to bring to mind
	<i>ment</i>	mind (Ltn)	mental (adj): related to the mind
	<i>meter</i>	device for measuring	hygrometer (n): a device for measuring humidity
	<i>min</i>	little, small (Ltn)	minor (adj): less important, lesser
	<i>mit, miss</i>	send (Ltn)	admit (vb): to accept, to allow entry
	<i>mob, mov, mot</i>	move (Ltn)	motion (n): act of moving, action
N	<i>nasc, nat, gnant, nai</i>	to be born (Ltn)	native (adj) - belonging to a particular place by birth
	<i>nom, nym</i>	name (Ltn)	nominate (vb): to name for office

Prefixes, Suffixes, and Roots 9

O	<i>nov</i>	new (Ltn)	novice (n): a beginner or newcomer
	<i>oper</i>	work (Ltn)	operate (vb): to work, to perform
P	<i>pact</i>	fasten or hold	impact (vb): to strike together forcefully compact (vb): to press together
	<i>pat, pass</i>	feel, suffer (Ltn)	passion (n): a strong feeling or emotion
	<i>path</i>	feel (Grk)	sympathy (n): sharing another person's feelings
	<i>ped</i>	foot (Ltn)	impede (vb): to hinder, to slow down
	<i>phobia</i>	fear (Grk)	claustrophobia (n): fear of enclosed spaces
	<i>pod</i>	foot (Grk)	podium (n): a platform, an area raised above the surrounding ground
	<i>pel, puls</i>	drive, push (Ltn)	repel (vb): to drive away or push back
	<i>pend, pond</i>	to hang, weigh (Ltn)	append (vb): to add or correct
	<i>phan, phas, phen, fan, phant, fant</i>	show, make visible (Grk)	phantom (n): something seen but having no physical existence, a ghost
	<i>phil</i>	love (Grk)	philosopher (n): a person who seeks (loves) wisdom
	<i>phon</i>	sound (Grk)	phonetic (adj): related to speech sounds
	<i>pict</i>	paint, show, draw (Ltn)	picture (vb): to paint or draw
	<i>port</i>	carry (Ltn)	import (vb): to bring in from a foreign country
	<i>pli, ply</i>	fold (Ltn)	reply (vb): to respond, to answer
	<i>pon, pos</i>	put, place (Ltn)	postpone (vb): to put off to a later time
	<i>psych</i>	mind (Grk)	psychology (n): study of how the mind works
Q	<i>quir, quis, quest, quer</i>	seek, ask (Ltn)	query (vb): to ask questions
R	<i>rupt</i>	break (Ltn)	rupture (vb): to break or burst
S	<i>sci, scio</i>	to know (Ltn)	conscious (adj): aware, having knowledge of oneself
	<i>scrib, scrip</i>	write (Ltn)	script (n): handwriting, something written
	<i>sent, sens</i>	feel, think (Ltn)	sentiment (n): a thought prompted by feeling
	<i>sequ, secut, sue</i>	follow (Ltn)	sequence (n): a continuous series
	<i>sist</i>	to withstand, make up (Ltn)	insist (vb): to be firm about something needed, to demand
	<i>soci</i>	to join, companions (Ltn)	sociable (adj): inclined to seek friendship, companionship
	<i>sol</i>	alone (Ltn)	solitary (adj): being alone
	<i>solv, solu, solut</i>	loosen, explain (Ltn)	solve (vb): to find an answer

Prefixes, Suffixes, and Roots 10

	<i>spec, spi, spic, spect</i>	look (Ltn)	spectator (n): a person who watches
	<i>spir</i>	breath, soul (Ltn)	respiration (n): breathing
	<i>stab, stat</i>	stand (Ltn)	stature (n) - height of a standing body, importance of position
	<i>strain, strict, string, stige</i>	bind, pull (Ltn)	constrict (vb) - to squeeze, to make narrow
	<i>stru, struct, stroy</i>	build (Ltn)	destroy (vb): to ruin, to pull down
T	<i>tact, tang, tig, ting</i>	touch (Ltn)	tactile (adj): related to the sense of touch
	<i>tend, tens</i>	stretch (Ltn)	contend (vb): to strive or reach for, to argue
	<i>tain, ten, tent, tin</i>	hold, keep, have (Ltn)	retain (vb): to keep, to hold in place
	<i>term</i>	end, boundary, limit (Ltn)	exterminate (vb): to kill off, to get rid of
	<i>terr</i>	earth (Ltn)	territory (n): area of land
	<i>test</i>	see, witness (Ltn)	attest (vb): to provide proof, to say something is true
	<i>therm</i>	heat (Grk)	thermometer (n): a device for measuring heat
	<i>tor, tors, tort</i>	twist (Ltn)	torsion (n): twisting of the body
	<i>tract, trai, treat</i>	pull, draw (Ltn)	attract (vb): to draw toward, to arouse interest
U	<i>uni</i>	one (Ltn)	unite (vb): to make one, to join together
V	<i>vac</i>	empty (Ltn)	vacant (adj): empty, not occupied
	<i>ven, vent</i>	come (Ltn)	convene (vb): to assemble, to come together
	<i>ver</i>	true (Ltn)	verify (vb): to confirm that something is true
	<i>verb, verv</i>	word (Ltn)	verbalize (vb): to express in words, to put into words
	<i>vers, vert</i>	turn, change (Ltn)	versatile (adj): capable of changing or adapting, useful
	<i>vid, vie, vis</i>	see (Ltn)	visible (adj): able to be seen, divide (vb): to separate
	<i>vit, viv</i>	live (Ltn)	vital (adj) - necessary for life
	<i>voc, voke</i>	call (Ltn)	vocal (adj): spoken or uttered by the voice
	<i>volv, volt, vol</i>	roll, turn (Ltn)	revolve (vb): to turn around

Last revised: October 13, 2005

Adapted from:

Caglioti, C. "Preparation for an American University Program: Vocabulary Workshop" Southampton College of Long Island University. <http://www.southampton.liu.edu/academic/pau/course/webesl.htm>