

## Prefixes

### Reading and Discussion

A prefix is a letter or syllable that is added to the root of a word in order to form a new word with a different meaning. Root, stem, and base word all mean the same thing. Words change their meaning and become new words when we place letters or syllables at the beginning or end of a base word.

If we look at the word 'prefix' itself, we will see that it is made up from two parts: 'pre' and 'fix.' 'Pre,' means before, and 'fix' means attached. 'Pre' is a syllable that is placed before the root which in this case is 'fix.' So a **prefix** is a word or syllable that is placed before the root of the word. Prefixes have their own meaning, but when they are added to a root word, they change the meaning of that word.

Prefixes are very useful because if we know how to identify them and their meaning, we can learn the meaning of the new word and improve our vocabulary.

Common prefixes and their meanings:

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLES OF WORDS	MEANING OF WORDS
anti	against or opposite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Anti</u>social</li> <li>• <u>Anti</u>democratic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is someone who is not social</li> <li>• Is against democracy</li> </ul>
bi	two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Bi</u>cycle</li> <li>• <u>Bi</u>annual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two wheels</li> <li>• Twice a year</li> </ul>
co	together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Co</u>-worker</li> <li>• <u>Co</u>-founder</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To work together</li> <li>• To found something together</li> </ul>
dis	not	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Dis</u>like</li> <li>• <u>Dis</u>honest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To not like</li> <li>• To not be honest</li> </ul>
ex	out, from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Ex</u>port</li> <li>• <u>Ex</u>hale</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To send, sell, or transfer to outside</li> <li>• To breathe out</li> </ul>
extra	out of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Extra</u>ordinary</li> <li>• <u>Extra</u>terrestrial</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Out of the ordinary</li> <li>• Out of earth</li> </ul>
hyper	over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Hyper</u>sensitive</li> <li>• <u>Hyper</u>ventilate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over sensitive</li> <li>• Over breathing</li> </ul>
im	in, into	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Im</u>port</li> <li>• <u>Im</u>pose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To send, transfer, to ship inside, into the country</li> <li>• To force into</li> </ul>
in	not	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>In</u>sane</li> <li>• <u>In</u>direct</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not sane</li> <li>• Not direct</li> </ul>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

inter	between, among	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>I</u>nternational</li> <li>• <u>I</u>nterdepartmental</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between, among nations</li> <li>• Between departments</li> </ul>
mis	wrong, badly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>M</u>istreat</li> <li>• <u>M</u>isunderstand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To treat badly</li> <li>• To understand wrongly</li> </ul>
mono	single, one	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>M</u>onotone</li> <li>• <u>M</u>onologue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One tone or note</li> <li>• One speech</li> </ul>
multi	many	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>M</u>ultipurpose</li> <li>• <u>M</u>ultitask</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many purposes</li> <li>• Many tasks</li> </ul>
non	not	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>N</u>onprofit</li> <li>• <u>N</u>onsense</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not for profit</li> <li>• Does not make sense</li> </ul>
omni	everywhere, all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>O</u>mnipresent</li> <li>• <u>O</u>mnipotent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present everywhere</li> <li>• All powerful</li> </ul>
post	after	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>P</u>ostmortem</li> <li>• <u>P</u>ostwar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After death</li> <li>• After war</li> </ul>
pre	before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>P</u>reface</li> <li>• <u>P</u>rehistoric</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before an article or before text of book</li> <li>• Before history was written</li> </ul>
re	again, back	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>R</u>esend</li> <li>• <u>R</u>etell</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send again</li> <li>• Tell again</li> </ul>
sub	below, under	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>S</u>ubmarine</li> <li>• <u>S</u>ubway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under water</li> <li>• Path under ground</li> </ul>
tri	three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>T</u>riangle</li> <li>• <u>T</u>ricycle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three angles</li> <li>• Three wheels</li> </ul>
un	not	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>U</u>nkind</li> <li>• <u>U</u>ninterested</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not kind</li> <li>• Not interested</li> </ul>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Activities

### Activity A: Multiple Choice:

1. A prefix is a letter, a syllable, or a word that is added to a root word at:
  - a. The beginning
  - b. The middle
  - c. The end
  - d. None of the above
  
2. The prefix 'hyper' means:
  - a. Not
  - b. Over
  - c. Out of
  - d. Many

### Activity B: Matching:

- |                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| _____ 1. Inter- | a. Three                |
| _____ 2. Extra- | b. Together             |
| _____ 3. Anti-  | c. Everywhere, all      |
| _____ 4. Un-    | d. Between, among       |
| _____ 5. Tri-   | e. Not                  |
| _____ 6. Sub-   | f. Against, opposite to |
| _____ 7. Co-    | g. Below, under         |
| _____ 8. Omni-  | h. Out of               |

### Activity C: Identify the prefix and determine the meaning of each word below:

1. **Antidepressant:** Prefix: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning of word: \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. **Misspell:** Prefix: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning of word: \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. **Insane:** Prefix: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning of word: \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. **Postwar:** Prefix: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning of word: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key

### Activity A

1. A prefix is a letter or syllable or word that is added to a root word at:
  - a. **The beginning**
  - b. The middle
  - c. The end
  - d. None of the above
2. The prefix 'hyper' means:
  - a. Not
  - b. **Over**
  - c. Out of
  - d. Many

### Activity B

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>  d  </u> 3. Inter- | a. Three                |
| <u>  h  </u> 4. Extra- | b. Together             |
| <u>  f  </u> 5. Anti-  | c. Everywhere, all      |
| <u>  e  </u> 6. Un-    | d. Between, among       |
| <u>  a  </u> 7. Tri-   | e. Not                  |
| <u>  g  </u> 8. Sub-   | f. Against, opposite to |
| <u>  b  </u> 9. Co-    | g. Below, under         |
| <u>  c  </u> 10. Omni- | h. Out of               |

### Activity C

- |                    |                      |  |
|--------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1. Antidepressant: | Prefix: <u>Anti-</u> | Meaning of word: <u>Against depression</u>         |
| 2. Misspell:       | Prefix: <u>Mis-</u>  | Meaning of word: <u>Spell incorrectly, wrongly</u> |
| 3. Insane:         | Prefix: <u>In-</u>   | Meaning of word: <u>Not sane</u>                   |
| 4. Postwar:        | Prefix: <u>Post-</u> | Meaning of word: <u>After war</u>                  |