

Common Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
un-	not	unequal, unfair, unpopular
re-	again	replace, recount, revote
il-, im-, in-, ir-	not	illegal, improper, inequality, irregular
dis-	not	disarm, disloyal, distrust
en-, em-	to put <i>or</i> to go into <i>or</i> to cause to be	ennoble, enact, empower, embattle
non-	not	nonviolent, nonpartisan, nonissue
in-, im-	in	inrush, impoverish
over-	above <i>or</i> beyond <i>or</i> too much	overpower, overturn, overpay
mis-	bad <i>or</i> wrongly	mismanage, miscount, mistreat
sub-	below <i>or</i> less <i>or</i> secondary	subset, subway, substandard
pre-	before	preview, pretest, prehistoric
inter-	between <i>or</i> among <i>or</i> within	interstate, interchange, international
fore-	earlier <i>or</i> near the front	forsee, foretell, forerunner
de-	the opposite of <i>or</i> remove <i>or</i> out of	dethrone, depopulate, deconstruct
trans-	across <i>or</i> on the other side	transport, transcontinental, transplant
super-	above <i>or</i> over <i>or</i> better <i>or</i> greater than	superpower, supercomputer, superhuman
semi-	half <i>or</i> partly <i>or</i> happening twice	semiannually, semicircle, semifinal
anti-	against	antisocial, antitrade, anti-aircraft
mid-	middle	midyear, midnight, midpoint
under-	below <i>or</i> less	underpaid, underage, underdog

Common Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Change in Function	Examples
-s, -es	Inflectional ending	Singular to plural	Vote-votes, church-churches
-ed	inflectional ending	present to past tense	play-played
-ing	inflectional ending	active verb ending	watch-watching
-ly	inflectional ending	adjective to adverb	quiet-quietly
-er, -or	one who performs an action	verb to noun	teach-teacher invent-inventor
-ion, -tion, -ation, -ition	tells the state of something <i>or</i> an action or process	verb to noun	elect-election, reconstruct-reconstruction
-able, -ible	able to be <i>or</i> inclined to be	verb to adjective	elect-electable, combust-combustible
-al, -ial	relating to something	noun to adjective	politics-political
-y	inflectional ending	noun to adjective	creep-creepy
-ness	Tells the state or quality of something	adjective to noun	great-greatness sad-sadness
-ity, -ty	tells the state of quality of something	adjective to noun	equal-equality, diverse-diversity
-ment	action <i>or</i> process <i>or</i> result Of action	verb or adjective to noun	movement, contentment
-ic	related to something	noun to adjective	history-historic, hero-heroic

Suffix	Meaning	Change in Function	Examples
-ous, -eous, -ious	possessing <i>or</i> full of	noun to adjective	Joy-joyous space-spacious
-en	to become	noun or adjective to verb	quick-quicken, strength-strengthen
-er	to compare two things	adjective to adjective	tall-taller
-ive, -ative, -tive	describe how something is	noun to adjective	offense-offensive, progress-progressive
-ful	full of <i>or</i> having	noun to adjective	truth-truthful
-less	without <i>or</i> lacking	noun to adjective	power-powerless
-est	having the most of a quality	adjective to adjective	great-greatest, brave-bravest