

Common Roots, Prefixes and Suffixes

Roots

- **Bio-:** Life
 - **Example:** Biology (study of living organisms)
- **Chron-:** Time
 - **Example:** Chronicle (record of events in order)
- **Graph- (or -graphy):** Writing or recording
 - **Example:** Geography (study of Earth's features)
- **Morph-:** Form
 - **Example:** Morphology (study of word forms)
- **Phon- (or -phone):** Sound
 - **Example:** Telephone (device for transmitting sound)
- **Struct- (or -structure):** Build
 - **Example:** Structure (arrangement of parts)
- **Tele-:** Distant
 - **Example:** Television (device for viewing from a distance)
- **-ject:** Throw
 - **Example:** Eject (throw out)
- **-ject (or -jet):** Throw
 - **Example:** Project (throw forward)
- **-port:** Carry
 - **Example:** Transport (carry across)
- **-rupt:** Break
 - **Example:** Interrupt (break into)
- **-ceive (or -cept):** Take
 - **Example:** Deceive (take away the truth)
- **-mit (or -miss):** Send
 - **Example:** Transmit (send across)
- **-tract:** Pull
 - **Example:** Attract (pull towards)
- **-mit (or -miss):** Send
 - **Example:** Admission (act of sending to)
- **-ject:** Throw
 - **Example:** Interject (throw between)
- **-port:** Carry
 - **Example:** Export (carry out)
- **-ject:** Throw
 - **Example:** Reject (throw back)
- **-duce (or -duct):** Lead
 - **Example:** Conduct (lead together)

- **-gress (or -grade):** Step
 - **Example:** Progress (step forward)
- **-vert (or -vers):** Turn
 - **Example:** Convert (turn together)
- **-scrib (or -script):** Write
 - **Example:** Describe (write about)
- **-duce (or -duct):** Lead
 - **Example:** Produce (lead forward)
- **-port:** Carry
 - **Example:** Import (carry in)
- **-vent (or -vene):** Come
 - **Example:** Prevent (come before)

Prefixes:

- **Un-:** Not or opposite
 - **Example:** Unhappy (not happy)
- **Re-:** Again or back
 - **Example:** Rewrite (write again)
- **In- (or Im-):** Not or into
 - **Example:** Impossible (not possible), Immigrate (move into a new country)
- **Dis-:** Apart or not
 - **Example:** Disconnect (pull apart), Disagree (not agree)
- **Over-:** Excessive or beyond
 - **Example:** Overdo (do excessively), Overcome (go beyond obstacles)
- **Pre-:** Before
 - **Example:** Preview (see before), Predict (foretell)
- **Mis-:** Wrong or badly
 - **Example:** Misunderstand (understand wrongly), Misbehave (behave badly)
- **Sub-:** Under or below
 - **Example:** Submarine (underwater vessel), Subpar (below standard)
- **Inter-:** Between or among
 - **Example:** Interact (communicate between), International (among nations)
- **Super- (or Sur-):** Over or above
 - **Example:** Superhero (above-average hero), Surpass (go beyond)
- **Bi-:** Two or double
 - **Example:** Bicycle (two wheels), Bilingual (speaking two languages)
- **Tri-:** Three
 - **Example:** Tricycle (three-wheeled vehicle), Trilogy (three-part series)
- **Multi-:** Many or multiple
 - **Example:** Multicolored (many colors), Multimedia (multiple forms of media)
- **Co- (or Com-):** Together or with
 - **Example:** Cooperation (working together), Combine (join together)
- **Auto-:** Self or automatic
 - **Example:** Autobiography (self-written life story), Automatic (self-operating)
- **Anti-:** Against or opposing
 - **Example:** Antibiotic (against bacteria), Antisocial (opposing social behavior)
- **Non-:** Not
 - **Example:** Nonsense (not making sense), Nonfiction (not fictional)

- **Mid-:** Middle
 - **Example:** Midnight (middle of the night), Midterm (middle of a term)
- **Ex-:** Former or out of
 - **Example:** Ex-president (former president), Exit (go out of)
- **En- (or Em-):** Cause to
 - **Example:** Encourage (cause to have courage), Employ (cause to work)

Suffixes:

- **-ing:** Present participle (action in progress)
 - **Example:** Running (action of run), Reading (action of read)
- **-ed:** Past tense (completed action)
 - **Example:** Played (past of play), Jumped (past of jump)
- **-ly:** In the manner of
 - **Example:** Quickly (in a quick manner), Politely (in a polite manner)
- **-s (or -es):** Plural form
 - **Example:** Cats (plural of cat), Boxes (plural of box)
- **-er (or -or):** One who
 - **Example:** Teacher (one who teaches), Actor (one who acts)
- **-ful:** Full of or characterized by
 - **Example:** Beautiful (full of beauty), Careful (characterized by care)
- **-ment:** Result or state of
 - **Example:** Achievement (result of achieving), Government (state of governing)
- **-able (or -ible):** Capable of being
 - **Example:** Comfortable (capable of comfort), Audible (capable of being heard)
- **-ist:** One who specializes in
 - **Example:** Scientist (one who specializes in science), Pianist (one who specializes in playing the piano)
- **-less:** Without
 - **Example:** Homeless (without a home), Fearless (without fear)
- **-ship:** Position or state of being
 - **Example:** Leadership (position of a leader), Membership (state of being a member)
- **-ology:** Study or science of
 - **Example:** Biology (study of living organisms), Psychology (science of the mind)
- **-ic:** Pertaining to
 - **Example:** Historic (pertaining to history), Scientific (pertaining to science)
- **-ify (or -ize):** Make or become
 - **Example:** Intensify (make more intense), Organize (become organized)
- **-ity:** State or quality of
 - **Example:** Creativity (quality of being creative), Reality (state of being real)