

PREFIXES in English

<i>NEOCLASSICAL prefixes</i>			
<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Mainly added to</i>	<i>Usual meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
aero-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with air	• <i>aerobic</i> • <i>aerodrome, aeronautics, aerobics</i>
agro- (also agri-)	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with farming	• <i>agricultural</i> • <i>agronomist, agriculture, agronomy</i>
anthropo-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with human beings	• <i>anthropological, anthropocentric</i> • <i>anthropology, anthropologist</i>
auto-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [ADVERBS] • [NOUNS]	of or by yourself; by itself without a person to operate it	• <i>autoimmune</i> • <i>automatically</i> • <i>autobiography, autograph, automobile</i>
biblio-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with books	• <i>bibliographical</i> • <i>bibliophile, bibliography</i>
bio-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with life	• <i>biodegradable, biological, bionic</i> • <i>biochemistry, biosphere, biodiversity</i>
cardio-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with the heart	• <i>cardiovascular</i> • <i>cardiology, cardiologist</i>
chrono-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with time	• <i>chronological</i> • <i>chronometer, chronology, chronograph</i>
eco-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with the environment	• <i>ecological</i> • <i>ecology, ecologist</i>
electro-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with electricity	• <i>electronic, electromagnetic</i> • <i>electrocardiogram, electroencephalogram</i>
geo-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with the earth	• <i>geometric, geothermal, geophysical</i> • <i>geology, geography, geologist</i>
hydro-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with water, combined with hydrogen	• <i>hydroelectric</i> • <i>hydroelectricity, hydroplane, hydrotherapy</i>
meta-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with change of position or state; higher or beyond	• <i>metabolic; metaphysical</i> • <i>metabolism, metamorphosis;</i> <i>metalanguage, metaphysics</i>
neo-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	in a later form, new(ly)	• <i>neonatal, neoclassical</i> • <i>neologism, neoclassicism</i>
omni-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	of all things, in all ways or places	• <i>omnipresent, omniscient, omnivorous</i> • <i>omnipresence, omniscience</i>
phil(o)-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	liking	• <i>philologist, philosophical</i> • <i>philanthropy, philology, philosopher</i>
phon(o)-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with sound	• <i>phonetic, phonological</i> • <i>phonology, phonetics, phoneme</i>
phot(o)-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with light	• <i>photogenic, photosensitive</i> • <i>photography, photograph, photocopier</i>
psych(o)-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with the mind	• <i>psychosomatic, psychiatric</i> • <i>psychology, psychoanalysis, psychopath</i>
radio-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with radio waves or broadcasting / radioactivity	• <i>radioactive, radio-controlled</i> • <i>radiography, radiotherapy</i>

self-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	of, to or by yourself or itself	• <i>self-addressed, self-taught, self-inflicted</i> • <i>self-control, self-service, self-portrait</i>
semi-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	half, partly	• <i>semi-detached, semi-skimmed</i> • <i>semicircle, semiconductor, semivowel</i>
soci(o)-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with society	• <i>socio-economic, sociocultural</i> • <i>sociolinguistics, sociology, sociopath</i>
tele-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with television, over a long distance	• <i>telegenic, telegraphic, telescopic</i> • <i>television, telecommunications, telegram, telepathy, telephone</i>
thermo-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	connected with heat	• <i>thermonuclear, thermodynamic</i> • <i>thermostat, thermometer</i>

NEGATIVE prefixes

<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Mainly added to</i>	<i>Usual meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
a-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [ADVERBS]	not, without	• <i>amoral, asexual, atheist</i> • <i>atypically</i>
dis-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [ADVERBS] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	not, opposite	• <i>disabled, disloyal</i> • <i>disagreeably</i> • <i>disadvantage, disorder</i> • <i>disappear, disqualify</i>
in- (also il- [before “l”], im- [before “m / p”], ir- [before “r”])	• [ADJECTIVES] • [ADVERBS] • [NOUNS]	not, opposite	• <i>incomplete, illegal, impossible</i> • <i>immorally, irregularly</i> • <i>irrelevance, immortality</i>
non-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	not, without	• <i>non-verbal, non-returnable</i> • <i>non-smoker, non-stop</i>
un-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [ADVERBS] • [PARTICIPLES]	not, opposite	• <i>unable, uncertain</i> • <i>unconsciously, uncommonly</i> • <i>unexpected, unknowing</i>

REVERSATIVE prefixes

<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Mainly added to</i>	<i>Usual meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
de-	• [VERBS] • [NOUNS]	reverse an action, remove something	• <i>defrost, decode, demist</i> • <i>decolonisation, deformation</i>
dis-	• [VERBS]	reverse an action, remove something	• <i>disconnect, disinfect, displease</i>
un-	• [VERBS]	reverse an action, remove something	• <i>undo, untie, unlock</i>

MEASURE prefixes

<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Mainly added to</i>	<i>Usual meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
cent(i)-	• [NOUNS]	hundredth	• <i>centimetre, centilitre</i>
deci-	• [NOUNS]	tenth	• <i>decilitre, decimetre</i>
kilo-	• [NOUNS]	thousand	• <i>kilometre, kilogram</i>
mega-	• [NOUNS]	million	• <i>megabyte, megahertz, megawatt</i>
milli-	• [NOUNS]	thousandth	• <i>millisecond, millimetre</i>

NUMBER prefixes			
<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Mainly added to</i>	<i>Usual meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
mono-/ uni-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	one, single	• <i>monogamous; unilateral</i> • <i>monorail; unicorn</i>
bi-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	two, twice, double	• <i>bilingual</i> • <i>bicycle</i>
tri-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	three	• <i>triangular</i> • <i>tricycle, triathlon, trilogy</i>
quadr(i)-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	four	• <i>quadrilateral, quadruple</i> • <i>quadrant, quadriplegic</i>
penta-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	five	• <i>pentagonal</i> • <i>pentagon, pentagram</i>
ambi-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	both of two	• <i>ambidextrous, ambivalent</i> • <i>ambiguity</i>
poly-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	many	• <i>polyglot, polysemous</i> • <i>polygon, polygamy, polygraph</i>
multi-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	several	• <i>multicultural</i> • <i>multimedia, multi-purpose</i>

DEGREE or SIZE prefixes			
<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Mainly added to</i>	<i>Usual meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
super-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	very, more/better than usual	• <i>supernatural, supersonic</i> • <i>supermodel, superhero</i>
sub-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	lower/less than, a smaller part	• <i>subdued, sub-zero, suburban</i> • <i>subaltern</i> • <i>subdivide</i>
over-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	more than usual, too much, completely	• <i>overcooked, overconfident</i> • <i>overemphasis</i> • <i>overload, overeat, overhear</i>
under-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	lower/less than, not enough, too little	• <i>underdeveloped</i> • <i>understatement, undergraduate</i> • <i>underestimate, underrate</i>
hyper-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	too much, extremely, more than normal	• <i>hyperactive</i> • <i>hypertension</i> • <i>hyperventilate</i>
hypo-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	too little, under, below normal	• <i>hypocritical, hypodermic</i> • <i>hypothermia</i> • <i>hypothesize</i>
macro-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	very large, huge on a large scale	• <i>macrobiotic</i> • <i>macroeconomics, macro-party</i>
micro-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	very small, tiny on a small scale	• <i>microscopic</i> • <i>microwaves, micro-organism</i>
infra-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	below or beyond a particular limit	• <i>infrared</i> • <i>infrastructure</i>
ultra-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	extremely, beyond a particular limit	• <i>ultraviolet, ultrasonic</i> • <i>ultrasound</i>
mega-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	very large or great	• <i>mega-rich</i> • <i>megaphone, megastar</i>
mini-	• [NOUNS]	small, little	• <i>miniskirt, minigolf, minibar</i>
out-	• [VERBS]	greater, better, longer, further	• <i>outrun, outnumber, outwit, outlive</i>

<i>LOCATIVE prefixes</i>			
<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Mainly added to</i>	<i>Usual meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
<i>ante-</i>	• [NOUNS]	in front of	• <i>ante-room</i>
<i>extra-</i>	• [ADJECTIVES]	outside, beyond	• <i>extraterrestrial, extramarital</i>
<i>fore-</i>	• [NOUNS]	in front of	• <i>foreground, forehead</i>
<i>inter-</i>	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	between, from one to another	• <i>international, interchangeable</i> • <i>intercourse, interaction, internet</i> • <i>intermarry, interlock, interrelate</i>
<i>intra-</i>	• [ADJECTIVES]	inside, within	• <i>intravenous, intrauterine</i>
<i>mid-</i>	• [NOUNS]	in the middle of	• <i>mid-June, midnight</i>
<i>out-</i>	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	outside, outwards, away from	• <i>outgoing, outbuilding, outdoor</i> • <i>outlaw, outfit, outcome, outbreak</i>
<i>over-</i>	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	above, outer, over	• <i>overhead, overcast</i> • <i>overcoat, overlord</i> • <i>overfly</i>
<i>pan-</i>	• [ADJECTIVES]	connected with the whole / including all of something	• <i>pan-American, pandemic</i>
<i>sub-</i>	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	below, under	• <i>subterranean, subcutaneous</i> • <i>subway, submarine</i> • <i>submerge, subordinate</i>
<i>super-</i>	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	above, over	• <i>superscript</i> • <i>superstructure</i> • <i>superimpose</i>
<i>trans-</i>	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	across, beyond, into another place or state	• <i>transatlantic, transcontinental</i> • <i>transaction, transcription</i> • <i>transplant, transform, transact</i>
<i>under-</i>	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	below, underneath	• <i>undercover, underground</i> • <i>undergrowth, underwear</i> • <i>underline</i>

<i>TIME and ORDER prefixes</i>			
<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Mainly added to</i>	<i>Usual meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
<i>ante-</i>	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	before, in advance, beforehand	• <i>antediluvian, antenatal</i> • <i>anteroom</i> • <i>antedate</i>
<i>fore-</i>	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	before, in advance, beforehand	• <i>foreseeable, foremost</i> • <i>forebear, foreground</i> • <i>foretell, foresee, forecast</i>
<i>pre-</i>	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	before, in advance, beforehand	• <i>pre-cooked, predictable</i> • <i>precaution, precondition</i> • <i>precede, predecease</i>
<i>ex-</i>	• [NOUNS]	former, previous	• <i>ex-wife, ex-president</i>
<i>post-</i>	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	after	• <i>postoperative, postnatal</i> • <i>postgraduate, post-modernism</i> • <i>postpone</i>

ATTITUDE prefixes			
<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Mainly added to</i>	<i>Usual meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
anti-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [ADVERBS] • [NOUNS]	preventing, the opposite of something	• <i>anticoagulant, antiperspirant</i> • <i>anticlockwise</i> • <i>anticlimax, antifreeze, antibiotic</i>
arch-	• [NOUNS]	supreme, main, most important	• <i>archbishop, arch-enemy</i>
co-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [ADVERBS] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	together (with)	• <i>co-produced</i> • <i>cooperatively</i> • <i>co-author, co-pilot</i> • <i>cooperate, coexist</i>
counter-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [ADVERBS] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	against, opposite; corresponding	• <i>counterproductive</i> • <i>counterclockwise</i> • <i>counter-argument; counterpart</i> • <i>counteract, counter-attack</i>
mal-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	bad(ly), not correct(ly)	• <i>malodorous, malnourished</i> • <i>malpractice, malformation</i> • <i>maltreat, malfunction</i>
mis-	• [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	bad(ly), wrong(ly)	• <i>misdeed, misunderstanding</i> • <i>misinterpret, misbehave, misjudge</i>
pro-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	for, in favour of, supporting	• <i>pro-European, pro-communist</i> • <i>pro-peace, pro-government</i>
pseudo-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS]	false, pretended, not genuine	• <i>pseudo-intellectual, pseudo-academic</i> • <i>pseudo-science, pseudonym</i>
re-	• [ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] • [VERBS]	again, back	• <i>reassuring</i> • <i>reconstruction, reincarnation</i> • <i>reapply, rebuild</i>
vice-	• [NOUNS]	deputy	• <i>vice-president, vice-chairman</i>

CONVERSION prefixes			
<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Mainly added to</i>	<i>Usual meaning</i>	<i>Examples</i>
a-	• [VERBS] > [PREDICATIVE ADJECTIVES]	in the process of, in a particular state	• <i>wash > <u>awash</u>; back > <u>aback</u>; jar > <u>ajar</u>; gape > <u>agape</u>; wake > <u>awake</u></i>
be-	• [NOUNS] > [PARTICIPIAL ADJECTIVES] • [NOUNS] / [ADJECTIVES] / [INTRANSITIVE VERBS] > [TRANSITIVE VERBS]	to make or treat as; wearing or covered with; to cause to be	• <i>spectacle > <u>bespectacled</u>; jewel > <u>bejewelled</u></i> • <i>friend > <u>befriend</u>; head > <u>behead</u></i> • <i>calm > <u>becalm</u>; little > <u>belittle</u></i> • <i>moan > <u>bemoan</u></i>
en-	• [ADJECTIVES] / [NOUNS] > [VERBS]	to put into the thing or condition mentioned, to make	• <i>sure > <u>ensure</u>, close > <u>enclose</u></i> • <i>slave > <u>enslave</u>, tail > <u>entail</u></i>