

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT**Prefixes in English and their Meaning**

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
Ante-	Before (time or position)	antecedent
Counter-	In opposition to	counterattack, counterclaim
Ex-	former	ex-president
Inter-	Between, from one to another	International, interracial, interdisciplinary
mid-	In the middle of	Midday, midterm
Post-	After	Postwar, postcolonial
Pre-	Before	Prepaid, precondition
Sub-	Under	Subway, subtitle
Syn-	Together	Synchronise, synthesis
Under-	Not enough, low in rank, being below	Underprivileged, underestimate, underdeveloped

Negative Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
Anti-	Against	Anti-hero, anti-social
De-	Taking something away from	Deforest, dehumanise
Dis-	The opposite of	Disappear, disorder, disagree
In- Il- im- ir-	Not	Incorrect, invalid Illegible, illiterate Improper, impatient Irregular, irrelevant
Mal-	Bad	Malpractice, malnutrition
Mis-	Wrong, not	Misappropriate, misunderstand, misinterpret
Non-	Not	Non-citizen, non-resident, non-smoker
Un-	not	Uncertain, unbelievable

Prefixes for Degree

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
Extra-	Very, more than usual, outside, beyond	Extraordinary, extracurricular
Hyper-	Above something, too much	Hypermarket, hypersensitive
Over-	More than normal, too much	Overdraw, overestimate
Super-	Extremely, more than	Superhero, supersonic
Ultra-	Beyond, very	Ultrasonic, ultraviolet

Prefixes for Numbers

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
Bi-	Two	Bilingual, bimonthly
Cent-, centi-	Hundred, hundredth	Century, centimetre
Demi-	Half or smaller	Demigod
Hemi-	Half	Hemisphere
Kilo-	Thousand	Kilogram, kilowatt
Mid-	Middle point of	mid-thirties
Milli-	Thousandth	Milligram, millilitre
Mono-	One, single	Monolingual, monologue
Multi-	Many	Multilingual, multinational
Poly-	Many	Polygamy, polytechnic
Quad-	Four	Quadruple
Tri-	Three	Triangle, trishaw

Prefixes for Direction

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
Ab-	From, away from	Absorb, abnormal
Ad-	Near, towards	Adrenal
Pro-	In favour of	Pro-West, pro-democracy
Trans-	Across	Transplant, transcontinental

Prefixes for size

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
Macro-	Large, great	Macroscopic, macrobiotic
Micro-	Very small, little	Microfilm, microscope
Mini-	Small	Minicab, minibus

Other Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
Re-	Again	Rewrite, reassign, recall
Tele-	Far, over a long distance	Telecommunication, teleconference
Vice-	Deputy	Vice-president

Suffixes in English and their Meanings**Noun Suffixes**

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-acy, -isy	Quality	Privacy, hypocrisy
-age	Process or state	Shortage, postage
-al, -ial	Action of	Denial, refusal
-ance, -ence	Action, process or state	Independence, insurance
-ee	A person to whom something is done	Employee, retiree, interviewee
-er, -or	Agent, a person who does some action	Author, inspector, winner
-ery	A place of action, condition	Surgery, bravery, nursery
-dom	State, condition of	Wisdom, kingdom, boredom
-hood	State of being	Womanhood, brotherhood
-ian	A person who does a job	Musician, comedian, politician
-ion	Act or state of	Imagination, action
-ism	Fact of being	Communism, feminism
-ist	A person who does a job	Dentist, artist, receptionist
-ity, -ty	State of	Humanity, responsibility
-ment	A state, process, action	Development, arrangement
-ness	A state or quality	Laziness, weakness, cleanliness
-ship	Showing status	Membership, friendship, relationship

Adjective Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-able, -ible	Capable of, possible to	Negotiable, credible, separable
-al, -il	Related to	Official, political, economical
-ant	Quality	Defiant, reliant
-ese	From a place	Chinese, Japanese
-ful	Quality	Wonderful, grateful, helpful
-ish	Like, rather, quite	Brownish, childish
-ive	The nature of	Attractive, supportive
-less	Without	Speechless, motionless
-ous	Quality	Dangerous, disastrous
-y	quality	Rainy, thirsty, dirty

Verb and Adverb Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-ate	To make	Facilitate, activate
-en	To make	Widen, darken
-ify	To make	Beautify, exemplify
-ise	To make	Nationalise, standardise

Adverb Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-er	Comparison	Louder, softer, harder
-est	The highest degree of	Loudest, softest, hardest
-ly	Manner of an adverb	Politely, suddenly, seriously

The following are some other ways you could use to widen your vocabulary

Antonyms in English			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can also widen your vocabulary through listing down words that you know and then finding the opposites of these words 			
➡ Black and white	➡ Backward and forward	➡ North and south	
➡ Tall and short	➡ Past and future	➡ East and west	
➡ Beautiful and ugly	➡ Hot and cold	➡ Careful and careless	
➡ Fast and slow	➡ Sunrise and sunset	➡ Clean and dirty	
➡ Little and large	➡ Easy and difficult	➡ Similar and different	

Synonyms in English	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can also enrich your vocabulary through finding words that have similar meanings as other words. 	
➡ Scared and afraid	➡ Show and demonstrate
➡ Synthetic and false	➡ Fast and quick... etc

Homonyms and Homophones		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can enrich your vocabulary by using homonyms. E.g. DRAW The possible meanings to this word are: 		
➡ Create picture	➡ Choose something	➡ Take money
➡ Pull something	➡ Move slowly/ smoothly	➡ When neither side wins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can also enrich your vocabulary by using homophones. 		
➡ Flew and Flu	➡ Soul and Sole	➡ Beat and Bit
➡ Foul and Fowl	➡ Pit and Peat	➡ Wear and Ware