

Prefix-Suffix-Root List by Grade Level 2019-2020

The following lists are not all-inclusive, but most common. They are a minimum students at each grade level should read and understand how to use and apply by the current school year end. Others may be added based on your classroom of students.

Prefix - A word part added to the beginning of a root or base word to create a new meaning,

Suffix - A letter or a group of letters added to the end of a root or base word to change its meaning,

Root - the form of a word after all affixes are removed

(Generally, prefixes and suffixes change the meanings of roots, but it is usually the suffix that denotes the part of speech.)

Incorporate prefix, suffix, and roots into working with words study.

1 st Grade					
Prefix	Suffix	Definition	Examples	Origin	Additional Information
	-s, -es	plural, more than one	hats, pigs, books, plays, boxes, wishes, dishes cliffs, roofs, beliefs knives, leaves, halves, selves	Anglo-Saxon	y after a vowel (s) words end in -s, -sh, -ch, -x, -z (-es) nouns ending -f or -fe (s) -f or -fe change -f to -v and add -es consonant followed by -o (-es) vowel followed by -o (-s)
	-ing	action/process	helping, skipping, running, seeing, thinking	Anglo-Saxon	Present participle of verb
	-ed	past tense	jumped, helped	Anglo-Saxon	Past tense verb

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2 nd Grade					
Prefix	Suffix	Definition	Examples	Origin	Additional Information
un-		not/opposite	unlock, unsafe, uncover	Anglo-Saxon	
re-		again/back	reread, rewrite, return	Latin	
	-er	person connected with, comparative degree	teacher, writer, baker, bigger, colder, taller	Anglo-Saxon	
	-est	superlative degree	biggest, coldest, tallest	Anglo-Saxon	Usually an adjective
	-ful	full of	beautiful, painful	Anglo-Saxon	Usually an adjective
	-less	without	careless, helpless	Anglo-Saxon	

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3 rd Grade						
Prefix	Suffix	Root	Definition	Examples	Origin	Additional Information
in-			not	inactive, income	Latin	
im-			not	impossible, improper, import	Latin	im- used before roots beginning with b, m, p
dis-			not/opposite of	dislike, distrust, disagree	Latin	
pre-			before	pretest, preplan, premade	Latin	
tele-			far, distant	telephone, telegraph, television	Greek	
	-ies		plural, more than one	parties, babies, cries	Anglo-Saxon	y after a consonant
	-ied		past tense	cried, tried,	Anglo-Saxon	y after a consonant
	-ed		past tense	stopping, hopping	Anglo-Saxon	doubling (CVC)
	-ing		action/process	stopped, hopped	Anglo-Saxon	doubling (CVC)
	-ly		characteristic of	badly, friendly, quickly	Anglo-Saxon	Usually an adverb
	-y		characterized by/like	cloudy, fishy	Anglo-Saxon	
		bio	life	biology, biography, biopsy	Greek	
		graph	write	telegraph, photograph, phonograph, autograph	Greek	
		phon	sound	phonograph, symphony, telephone, microphone, phonics	Greek	
		scope	see	microscope, telescope, periscope, stethoscope	Greek	

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4th Grade						
Prefix	Suffix	Root	Definition	Examples	Origin	Additional Information
non-			not	nonfat, nonsense	Latin	
over-			too much, above	overdone, overhead	Anglo Saxon	
mis-			bad or badly wrong or wrongly	misbehave, misread, misspell	Latin	
de-			reduce down away from	defeat, deform, decrease	Latin	
under-			too little/below	underfed, underground	Anglo-Saxon	
bi-			two	bicycle, binocular	Latin	
tri-			three	tricycle, triangle	Latin/Greek	
quad-			four	quadrilateral, quadrant	Latin	
oct-			eight	octagon, octopus	Latin/Greek	
	-er, -or		one who, that which	baker, boxer, conductor, survivor	Latin	Usually a noun Use –or with Latin roots for nouns (inventor, elevator) Use –er with Anglo-Saxon roots (heater, swimmer)
	-tion		act of, state of, result of	attention, invitation, restriction	Anglo-Saxon	Usually a noun
	-al, -ial		related to characterized by	colonial, biennial, dental, betrayal	Latin	Usually an adjective
	-ness		condition, state of	darkness, fairness	Anglo-Saxon	Usually a noun
	-ment		act, process	enjoyment, replacement	Latin	
	-en		made of, to make	wooden, dampen, tighten,	Anglo-Saxon	
		rupt	break, burst	bankrupt, rapture, disruptive	Latin	FYI: Erupt means to explode. (The volcano erupted.) Irrupt means to rush or burst in. (The police irrupted into the hideout.)
		terr	land	terrain, territory	Latin	
		geo	earth, ground, soil	geography, geology	Greek	
		photo	light	photograph, telephoto, photocopy	Greek	
		tract	pull, drag	tractor, attract, subtract, traction	Latin	
		meter, metr	measure	speedometer, odometer, metric, metronome, thermometer, perimeter, diameter, centimeter	Greek	

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5th Grade						
Prefix	Suffix	Root	Definition	Examples	Origin	Additional Information
en-, em-			to cause to be, to put into or onto, to go into or onto	encounter, enable, employ, embark, encircle	Latin	
sub-			under, beneath, below secondary	subway, subsoil, substitute	Latin	
fore-			before, earlier	forearm, foreword	Anglo-Saxon	
semi-			half	semicircle, semicolon	Latin	
anti-			opposite, against	antibiotic, antifreeze	Greek	
auto-			self	autograph, automatic	Greek	
multi-			many/ much	multicolor, multifamily	Latin	
poly-			many/ much	polygon, polysyllable	Greek	
deca- deci-			ten	decathlon, decade, decimal, decimeter	Latin/ Greek	
kilo-			1,000	kilogram, kilowatt	Greek	
milli- mille-			1,000	millennium, millimeter	Latin	
centi-			100	centimeter, centipede	Latin	
	-ion, -tion, -ation, -ition		act of/ state of/ result of	tension, attention, elevation, union	Anglo-Saxon	Usually a noun The real suffix is –ion. Putting s or t in front of –ion is simply determined by the spelling of the root
	-able -ible		can be done	enjoyable, sensible, likable	Latin	-able ending words have roots that can stand alone.(enjoyable) -ible ending words have roots that can not stand alone. (sensible)
	-ive -ative -tive		inclined/ tending toward an action	festive, talkative, active, sensitive	Latin	Words that end with –de (intrude) change the –de to s then add –ive (intrusive). Words that end with silent e (create) drop the e then add –ive (creative).
	-logy, -ology		science of/ study of	biology, chronology	Greek	
	-ence -ance		act/ condition of	persistence, excellence, assistance, importance	Latin	Usually a noun –ence and –ance sound alike because of the schwa. –ence is used somewhat more often than –ance.
	-an, -an		one having a certain skill/ relating to/ belonging to	electrician, magician, American, suburban	Latin	Usually a noun
		ject	to throw	inject, objection, project	Latin	
		struct	to build	construct, instructor	Latin	

		vis	to see	vision, evidence	Latin	
		vid	see	video, evidence, provide, providence	Latin	
		jur juris	judge, oath law	jury, jurisdiction	Latin	
		log logue	word	prologue, apology, dialogue, eulogy, monologue	Greek	
		path	feeling/ suffering/ disease	apathetic, pathology	Greek	
		ast astr	star	astronaut, astronomy, disaster, asterisk	Greek	
		mit	to send	emit, transmit, admit, remit	Latin	
		audi (aud)	hear	audience, auditorium, audiovisual	Latin	
		dict	to say, tell	diction, dictator	Latin	

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6th Grade						
Prefix	Suffix	Root	Definition	Examples	Origin	Additional Information
in- (il-, im-, ir-)			not	inability, impatient, irregular, illegal	Latin	il-used before roots beginning with "l" (illegible) im- used before roots beginning with b, m, p (immature, imbalance, impatient)
inter-			between	intercept, interview, interstate	Latin	
trans-			across/ change/ through	transformation, transportation, transfer	Latin	
super-			above/ on top of/ beyond	superfine, superhuman, supersonic	Latin	
micro-			small/ minute	microbiology, microscope	Greek	
uni-			one/ single	unicorn, unicycle, uniform	Latin	
	-ent -ant		an action/ condition	student, contestant, immigrant	Latin	Often a noun The suffix –ant often indicates a person noun.
	-ent -ant		causing a specific action	obedient, absorbent, abundant, elegant	Latin	Often an adjective -ent and –ant sound alike because of the schwa. –ent is used somewhat more often than –ant.
	-ity -ty		state of/ quality of	prosperity, equality	Latin	Usually a noun
	-ic		relating to/ characterized by	energetic, historic	Latin/Greek	Usually an adjective
	-ize		to make/ to cause to become	fertilize, criticize, apologize	Latin/ Greek	Usually a verb
	-age		result of an action/ collection	manage, drainage, acreage	Latin	
	-ous -eous -ious		full of/ characterized by	adventurous, nervous, mysterious, courteous	Latin	Words that end with –de (intrude) change the –de to s then add –ive (intrusive). Words that end with silent e (create) drop the e then add –ive (creative).
		port	to carry	portable, transport	Latin	
		scrib script	to write	describe, manuscript	Latin	Verbs usually use scribe, as in prescribe; nouns usually use script, as in prescription.
		spect	to see/ watch/ observe	prospect, respect, specimen	Latin	
		vac	empty	vacate, evacuate	Latin	
		hydr	water	hydrogen, hydrant, hydroplane	Greek	
		chron	time	chronological, synchronize, chronicle, chronic	Greek	
		therm	heat	thermometer, thermostat, thermos	Greek	
		bene	good/ good	benefit, benign, beneficial	Latin	