

Prefixes

Prefixes are syllables which we add before certain words to form new words. The meaning of the new word depends on the prefix that has been used.

anti- = against (antifreeze)

bi- = two (bicycle)

com/con- = with (combination, comparison, concurrently)

co- = with (co-educational)

ex- = out/away from (excavate)

counter- = in the opposite direction (counter-argument)

ex- = previous, former (ex-wife)

inter- = between (interrelated)

mid- = middle of (midway, midday)

mis- = done wrongly or badly (misinterpret)

mono- = one (monorail)

multi- = many (multicultural)

non- = not (non-fiction)

out- = more, better (outnumber)

over- = (done) to a great extent (overcharge)

post- = after (postgraduate)

fore/pre- = before (foresee, prebook)

in/im- = in/into (inspired, import)

per- = through (pervade)

pre- = before (predetermined)

pro- = in favour of (pro-active)

re- = again (replace)

semi- = half (semi-formal)

sub- = under, less (subway)

super- = big, more (supersonic)

trans- = (travel) from one side, group, etc to another (transatlantic)

tri- = three (triathlon)

under- = not enough (underestimate)

The prefixes below are used to express opposite meanings.

de- derail, deactivate

dis- disinfect

in- indecisive **BUT** **il-** (before **l**) illegible, **im-** (before **b, m, p**) immature, impertinent, **ir-** (before **r**) irregular **BUT** unreliable

non- non-existent

un- unreliable

uni- = one (unilateral)

Some prefixes are added to nouns to form verbs.

en- = danger – endanger

BUT **em-** (before b, m, p) body-embody