

## Understanding Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Definition
a-	not	amoral	not moral
ab-	away from	abduct	take away from
ad-	to, toward	advance	move toward
ambi-	both	ambidextrous	good with both hands
amor-	love	amorous	loving
amphi-	both	amphibian	live on land and sea
annu-	year	annually	yearly
ante-	before	antedate	date before
anti-	against	antifreeze	against freezing
anthro-	human being	anthropology	study of humans
aqua-	water	aquarium	water tank
arch-	chief	archbishop	chief bishop
astro-	star	astronaut	star traveler
audio-	sound/hearing	audio tape	tape of sound
auto-	self	autocrat	rule by oneself
bene-	well, good	benefactor	receiver of good
biblio-	book	bibliophile	book lover
bio-	life	biology	study of life
cardio-	heart	cardiac	related to heart
centi-	hundred	centimeter	100th of a meter
circum-	around	circumvent	get around (pass)
co-, con-, com-	together	co-author	author together
chron-	time	chronological	in order by time
de-	down, away	decline	sink, waste away
demos-	people	democracy	state of the people
contra-	against	contradict	speak against
chromo-	color	chromatic	relates to color
derma-	skin	epidermis	outer skin
dia-	through	diameter	through middle
dis-	not, apart	dislike	not like
ego-	self	egocentric	self-centered
e, ex-	out, from, formerly	exclude	keep out
extra-	outside, beyond	ex-wife	former wife
geo-	earth	extramarital	outside marriage
graph-	write	geography	study of the earth
gress-	walk, go	biography	writing on one's life
hetero-	different	regress	walk over again
heir-	order by rank	heterosexual	different sexes
homo-	same	hierarchy	ranking by authority
hydra, hydro-	water	homosexual	same sex
hyper-	excessive	hydrant	water outlet
hypo-	less, under	hyperactive	excessively active
in, il, un-	not	hypodermal	under the skin
inter-	between, among	illegal	not legal
intra-	within	interstate	between states
		intrastate	within the state

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Definition
junct-	join	junction	point of meeting
mal-	bad	malpractice	bad practice
mania-	craze	pyromania	fire craze
mega-	million, large	megatons	million tons
meter, metry-	measure	thermometer	heat measure
micro-	small	microdots	small dots
mis-	wrong	mistake	error
mit, miss-	send	transmit	send across
mono-	one	monoplane	one winged plane
mort-	death	mortician	one dealing with death
multi-	many	multistage	many stages
neo-	new	Neo-Nazi	new-Nazi
non-	not	non-racial	nonracial
ology-	study of	biology	study of life
ortho-	straight	orthodox	straight, right view
pan-	all, across	Pan-American	across America
path-	feelings	pathology	study of emotions
ped-	foot	pedestrian	going on foot
phobia-	fear	hydrophobia	fear of water
phon-	sound	phonograph	sound writer
photo-	light	photograph	light writer (picture)
polis-	city	Indianapolis	Indian city
poly-	many	polypeptide	many peptides
port-	carry	transport	carry across
post-	after	post-war	after the war
pre-	before	pre-dated	dated before
pro-	in favor of	pro-choice	favoring choice
psych-	mind	psychology	study of the mind
pseudo-	false	pseudonym	false name
pyre-	fire	pyrometer	heat measuring device
retro-	backward	retro-rocket	backward firing rocket
script-	write	scriptures	writings
scope-	watch, look at	telescope	look at afar device
sub-	under	submarine	under water
super-	over, better	superwoman	better woman
sym-	with, together	symphony	sound together
tele-	far	teleport	carry far
therm-	heat	thermometer	heat meter
theo-	God	theology	study of God
tract-	draw	detract	draw away
trans-	across	transmit	send across
ultra-	excessive	ultrafine	very fine
un-	not	unhappy	not happy
under-	below	undershirt	shirt worn beneath
vis, vid-	see	video	to see
zo-	animal	zoology	study of animals

Expand your vocabulary by memorizing one prefix per day. Make a conscious attempt to use words with this prefix several times during that day.