

# Prefixes And Suffixes

[Prefixes](#) and [suffixes](#) are sets of letters that are added to the beginning or end of another word. They are not words in their own right and cannot stand on their own in a sentence: if they are printed on their own they have a [hyphen](#) before or after them.

## Prefixes

Prefixes are added to the beginning of an existing word in order to create a new word with a different meaning. For example:

<b><i>word</i></b>	<b><i>prefix</i></b>	<b><i>new word</i></b>
<a href="#">happy</a>	un-	<a href="#">unhappy</a>
<a href="#">cultural</a>	multi-	<a href="#">multicultural</a>
<a href="#">work</a>	over-	<a href="#">overwork</a>
<a href="#">space</a>	cyber-	<a href="#">cyberspace</a>
<a href="#">market</a>	super-	<a href="#">supermarket</a>

Here is the list of common [prefixes](#) in English with their meaning:

**a-, an-**

- Meaning: without, lack of, not

**ante-**

- Meaning: before, earlier, in front of

**anti-**

- Meaning: against, opposite of

**auto-**

- Meaning: self, same

**circum-**

- Meaning: around, about

**co-**

- Meaning: with, together

**com-, con-**

- Meaning: together, with

**contra-, contro-**

- Meaning: against, opposite

**de-**

- Meaning: down, off, away from

**dis-**

- Meaning: not, apart, away

**en-**

- Meaning: put into, cover with

**ex-**

- Meaning: out of, from, former

**extra-**

- Meaning: beyond, outside, more than

**hetero-**

- Meaning: different, other

**homo-, homeo-**

- Meaning: same, alike

**hyper-**

- Meaning: over, more, beyond

**il-, im-, in-, ir-**

- Meaning: not, without

**inter-**

- Meaning: between, among

**intra-, intro-**

- Meaning: within, inside

**macro-**

- Meaning: large, prominent

**micro-**

- Meaning: very small

**mono-**

- Meaning: one, single, alone

**non-**

- Meaning: not, without

**omni-**

- Meaning: all, every

**post-**

- Meaning: after, behind

**pre-, pro-**

- Meaning: before, forward

**sub-**

- Meaning: under, lower

**sym-, syn-**

- Meaning: same time, together

**tele-**

- Meaning: from or over a distance

**trans-**

- Meaning: across, beyond, through

**tri-**

- Meaning: three, every third

**un-**

- Meaning: not, lacking, opposite of

**uni-**

- Meaning: one, single

**up-**

- Meaning: to the top or north, higher/better

# Suffixes

Suffixes are added to the end of an existing word. For example:

Here is the list of common suffixes in English with their meaning:

**-age**

- **Meaning:** A result

**-ance**

- **Meaning:** An action or state
- 

**-ant**

- **Meaning:** A person

**-ee**

- **Meaning:** A person

**-ence**

- **Meaning:** An action or state

**-er/or**

- **Meaning:** A person

**-ery**

- **Meaning:** A type or place of work

**-ess**

- **Meaning:** Makes a feminine form

**-ful**

- **Meaning:** As much as will fill

**-ing**

- **Meaning:** An action or result

**-ion**

- **Meaning:** A process, state or result

**-ism**

- **Meaning:** A belief or condition

**-able**

- **Meaning:** Able to be

**-en**

- **Meaning:** Made of
- 

**-ible**

- **Meaning:** Ability

**-ish**

- **Meaning:** A little

**-less**

- **Meaning:** Without

**-like**

- **Meaning:** Similar to, like
- ous**
- **Meaning:** Full of
- some**
- **Meaning:** A tendency to

<i>word</i>	<i>suffix</i>	<i>new word</i>
<a href="#">child</a>	-ish	<a href="#">childish</a>
<a href="#">work</a>	-er	<a href="#">worker</a>
<a href="#">taste</a>	-less	<a href="#">tasteless</a>
<a href="#">idol</a>	-ize/-ise	<a href="#">idolize</a> /idolise
<a href="#">like</a>	-able	<a href="#">likeable</a>

The addition of a suffix often changes a word from one word class to another. In the table above, the verb *like* becomes the adjective *likeable*, the noun *idol* becomes the verb *idolize*, and the noun *child* becomes the adjective *childish*.

## Word creation with prefixes and suffixes

Some prefixes and suffixes are part of our living language, in that people regularly use them to create new words for modern products, concepts, or situations. For example:

<i>word</i>	<i>prefix or suffix</i>	<i>new word</i>
<a href="#">security</a>	bio-	<a href="#">biosecurity</a>
<a href="#">clutter</a>	de-	<a href="#">declutter</a>
<a href="#">media</a>	multi-	<a href="#">multimedia</a>
<a href="#">email</a>	-er	<a href="#">emailer</a>