

GRAMMAR

B2

@mariaenglishlessons
Prefixes & Suffixes



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WHAT ARE
AFFIXES?

ROOT / BASE WORD

THE ROOT (OR BASE WORD) CARRIES THE CORE MEANING.

KIND, HELP, LEGAL, HAPPY, APPEAR, COMFORT

ON THEIR OWN, THEY ARE COMPLETE WORDS.
EVERYTHING ELSE WE ADD CHANGES THAT MEANING IN SOME WAY.





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WHAT ARE
AFFIXES?

AN AFFIX IS A SMALL PIECE ADDED TO A ROOT.

AFFIX = ATTACH

THERE ARE TWO MAIN TYPES:

- PREFIX – GOES BEFORE THE ROOT
- SUFFIX – GOES AFTER THE ROOT

AFFIXES DON'T USUALLY EXIST AS SEPARATE WORDS.
THEY ARE LIKE "TOOLS" TO BUILD NEW VOCABULARY.





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A PREFIX COMES AT THE FRONT OF A WORD AND USUALLY CHANGES THE MEANING, NOT THE WORD CLASS.



PREFIX

PREFIXES – MEANING-BASED GROUPS

NEGATIVE / OPPOSITE

THESE PREFIXES MAKE A WORD NEGATIVE OR SHOW THE OPPOSITE IDEA.

UN- = NOT

EXAMPLES: UNHAPPY, UNFAIR, UNCLEAR

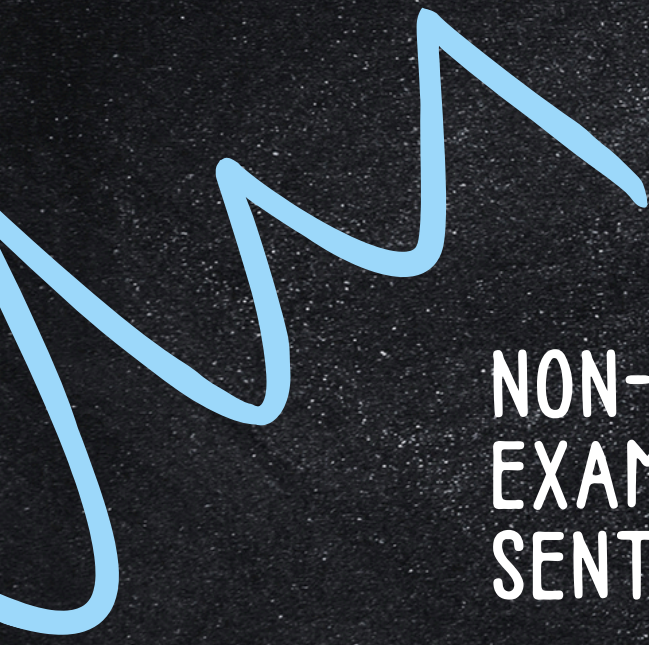
SENTENCE: THE INSTRUCTIONS WERE UNCLEAR.

IN- / IM- / IL- / IR- = NOT

EXAMPLES: INCORRECT, IMPOSSIBLE, ILLEGAL, IRREGULAR

SENTENCE: THE ANSWER WAS INCORRECT.





NON-
EXAM
SENT

EXAMPLES: NON-SMOKING, NONSENSE
SENTENCE: THIS IS A NON-SMOKING AREA.

EXAMPLES: DISAGREE, DISCONNECT, DISLIKE
SENTENCE: I DISAGREE WITH YOU.

**TIP: THESE USUALLY DO NOT CHANGE THE TYPE OF WORD.
EXAMPLE: POSSIBLE → IMPOSSIBLE (BOTH ADJECTIVES)**

"IN-" BECOMES "IM-" BEFORE B, M, P
IMPOSSIBLE, IMMATURE, IMBALANCE

INLEGAL → ILLEGAL
DISPOSSIBLE → IMPOSSIBLE

PREFIX





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TIME / ORDER / AMOUNT

THESE PREFIXES SHOW WHEN, HOW OFTEN, OR HOW MANY.

PRE- = BEFORE

EXAMPLES: PREVIEW, PREHEAT, PREPAY

SENTENCE: PLEASE PREHEAT THE OVEN.

POST- = AFTER

EXAMPLES: POSTGRADUATE, POST-WAR

SENTENCE: SHE TOOK A POSTGRADUATE COURSE.

RE- = AGAIN

EXAMPLES: REWRITE, REDO, REREAD

SENTENCE: I NEED TO REWRITE MY REPORT.

PREFIX





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MULTI- = MANY
EXAMPLES: MULTICULTURAL, MULTIMEDIA
SENTENCE: IT IS A MULTICULTURAL CITY.

BI- / TRI- = TWO / THREE
EXAMPLES: BILINGUAL, TRIANGLE
SENTENCE: HE IS BILINGUAL.

TIP: NOT EVERY VERB USES "RE-."
REWRITE – CORRECT
REDO – CORRECT
RECOME – INCORRECT (SAY "COME AGAIN")

COMMON MISTAKE:
PREPAY BEFORE → INCORRECT
PREPAY → CORRECT

PREFIX





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DIRECTION / POSITION / DEGREE

THESE PREFIXES SHOW LOCATION, LEVEL, OR MOVEMENT.

OVER- = TOO MUCH

EXAMPLES: OVERCOOK, OVERREACT, OVERCONFIDENT

SENTENCE: DON'T OVERCOOK THE VEGETABLES.

UNDER- = NOT ENOUGH

EXAMPLES: UNDERCOOK, UNDERPAID

SENTENCE: MANY WORKERS FEEL UNDERPAID.

INTER- = BETWEEN

EXAMPLES: INTERNATIONAL, INTERACTIVE

SENTENCE: ENGLISH IS AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE.

PREFIX





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PREFIX

SUB- = UNDER
EXAMPLES: SUBWAY, SUBCONSCIOUS
SENTENCE: WE TRAVELLED BY SUBWAY.

MEANING REMINDER:
OVER- = TOO MUCH
UNDER- = NOT ENOUGH

HE OVERWORKED.
HE UNDERSTUDIED.





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SIZE / INTENSITY

MEGA- = VERY BIG

MEGASTORE, MEGAPOWER

MINI- = SMALL

MINIBUS, MINISKIRT

SUPER- = VERY / ABOVE NORMAL

SUPERMARKET, SUPERSTAR, SUPERPOWER

HYPER- = TOO MUCH / EXTREMELY

HYPERACTIVE, HYPERSENSITIVE

PREFIX





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ATTITUDE / JUDGEMENT

PRO- = IN FAVOR OF

PRO-GOVERNMENT, PRO-DEMOCRACY

ANTI- = AGAINST

ANTI-SOCIAL, ANTI-WAR, ANTIBIOTIC

PREFIX





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NUMBER / REPEATING

MONO- = ONE

MONOLINGUAL, MONORAIL

POLY- = MANY

POLYGLOT, POLYNOMIAL

SEMI- = HALF / PARTLY

SEMICIRCLE, SEMI-FINAL

PREFIX





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PREFIX

LOCATION / AROUND

TRANS- = ACROSS / THROUGH
TRANSPORT, TRANSPLANT

CIRCUM- = AROUND
CIRCUMFERENCE, CIRCUMNAVIGATE

EXTRA- = OUTSIDE
EXTRAORDINARY, EXTRACURRICULAR





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PREFIX

SCIENCE / MEDICAL PREFIXES

AUTO- = SELF

AUTOBIOGRAPHY, AUTOMATIC

MICRO- = VERY SMALL

MICROSCOPE, MICROCHIP

MACRO- = LARGE

MACROECONOMICS, MACROSTRUCTURE

BIO- = LIFE

BIOLOGY, BIODEGRADABLE





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LITTLE PRACTICE

1. ___ POSSIBLE TO FINISH IN ONE DAY.
2. HE COMPLETELY ___ UNDERSTOOD THE QUESTION.
3. WE NEED TO ___ WRITE THE REPORT.
4. THIS STEAK IS ___ COOKED – IT'S RAW INSIDE!
5. SHE IS ___ NATIONAL – SHE HAS TWO PASSPORTS.





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ANSWER KEY

- IMPOSSIBLE
- MISUNDERSTOOD (EXTRA: MIS- = WRONG/BADLY)
- REWRITE
- UNDERCOOKED
- BINATIONAL / MULTINATIONAL (ACCEPT EITHER)



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WHAT ARE SUFFIXES?

A SUFFIX IS A SMALL ENDING ADDED TO THE END OF A WORD.
UNLIKE PREFIXES, SUFFIXES OFTEN CHANGE THE WORD CLASS (THE GRAMMAR TYPE).

EXAMPLE:

HAPPY [ADJECTIVE] → HAPPINESS [NOUN]

CREATE [VERB] → CREATION [NOUN]

QUICK [ADJECTIVE] → QUICKLY [ADVERB]

SO SUFFIXES HELP SPEAK AND WRITE MORE PRECISELY.

SUFFIXES OFTEN CHANGE THE FUNCTION OF THE WORD IN THE SENTENCE.

NOUN → ADJECTIVE → VERB → ADVERB

EXAMPLE CHAIN:

COMFORT [NOUN]

COMFORTABLE [ADJECTIVE]

COMFORTABLY [ADVERB]

SUFFIXES



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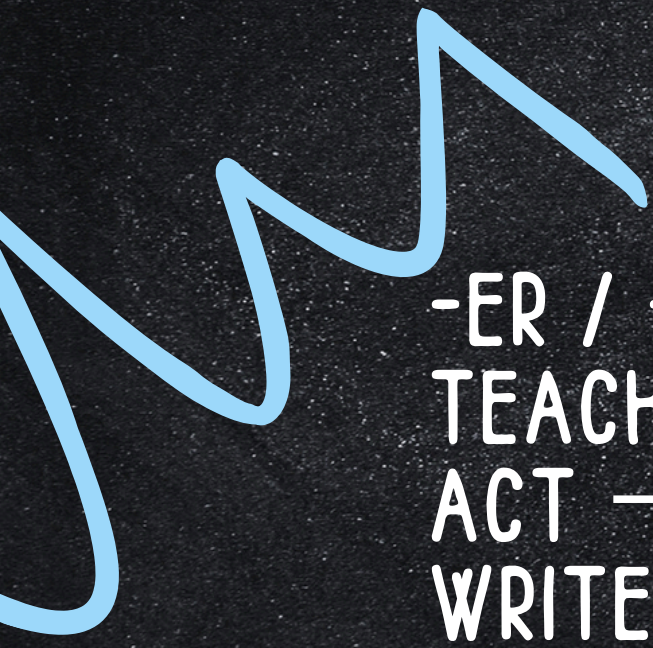
FORMING NOUNS WITH SUFFIXES

THESE SUFFIXES HELP CREATE NOUNS.

1. -NESS = A STATE OR CONDITION
2. KIND → KINDNESS
3. DARK → DARKNESS
4. POLITE → POLITENESS
5. -ION / -TION / -SION = AN ACTION OR PROCESS
6. DECIDE → DECISION
7. EDUCATE → EDUCATION
8. EXPAND → EXPANSION
9. -MENT = RESULT OF AN ACTION
10. DEVELOP → DEVELOPMENT
11. IMPROVE → IMPROVEMENT
12. AGREE → AGREEMENT

SUFFIXES





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-ER / -OR = A PERSON WHO DOES SOMETHING
TEACH → TEACHER
ACT → ACTOR
WRITE → WRITER
-ITY = QUALITY OR STATE
ABLE → ABILITY
ACTIVE → ACTIVITY
CURIOUS → CURIOSITY

SPELLING REMINDERS:

DECIDE → DECISION
[DROP THE FINAL "E" AND CHANGE TO "-SION"]
HAPPY → HAPPINESS
[Y CHANGES TO I]
BUSY → BUSINESS

COMMON MISTAKE:

PEOPLINESS ✗

PEOPLE ✓ [SOME WORDS SIMPLY DO NOT TAKE SUFFIXES]

SUFFIXES





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FORMING ADJECTIVES WITH SUFFIXES

THESE SUFFIXES HELP MAKE ADJECTIVES.

-FUL = FULL OF

CARE → CAREFUL

HOPE → HOPEFUL

USE → USEFUL

-LESS = WITHOUT

HOPE → HOPELESS

HOME → HOMELESS

FEAR → FEARLESS

TIP: -FUL AND -LESS CREATE OPPOSITE IDEAS.

-ABLE / -IBLE = CAN BE DONE

READ → READABLE

EAT → EDIBLE

ACCESS → ACCESSIBLE



SUFFIXES





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-OUS = HAVING SOMETHING / FULL OF
DANGER → DANGEROUS
FAME → FAMOUS
MYSTERY → MYSTERIOUS
-AL = RELATED TO
INDUSTRY → INDUSTRIAL
ACCIDENT → ACCIDENTAL
MUSIC → MUSICAL

COMMON MISTAKE:

BEAUTYFUL X

BEAUTIFUL ✓

WE DO NOT ADD "Y" BEFORE -FUL.

SUFFIXES



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FORMING VERBS WITH SUFFIXES

THESE SUFFIXES HELP CREATE OR MODIFY VERBS.

-IZE / -ISE = MAKE OR BECOME

MODERN → MODERNIZE

FINAL → FINALIZE

REAL → REALIZE

-EN = MAKE SOMETHING BECOME

WIDE → WIDEN

SHORT → SHORTEN

STRENGTH → STRENGTHEN

-IFY = MAKE

SIMPLE → SIMPLIFY

BEAUTY → BEAUTIFY

CLASS → CLASSIFY

EXAMPLE IN SENTENCES:

THE CITY MODERNIZED QUICKLY.

THEY SIMPLIFIED THE RULES.

PLEASE SHORTEN THE TEXT.

SUFFIXES

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FORMING ADVERBS WITH SUFFIXES

ADVERBS USUALLY DESCRIBE HOW SOMETHING IS DONE.

-LY = IN THIS WAY

QUICK → QUICKLY

SLOW → SLOWLY

CAREFUL → CAREFULLY

-WARDS = DIRECTION

FORWARD

BACKWARDS

UPWARDS

DOWNWARDS

EXAMPLE SENTENCES:

SHE SPOKE CLEARLY.

HE MOVED BACKWARDS.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

NOT EVERY ADJECTIVE FORMS ADVERBS WITH -LY CORRECTLY.

FAST → FAST (NOT FASTLY)

SUFFIXES

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COMMON MISTAKES

HAPPYNESS ✗

HAPPINESS ✓

GOODLY ✗

WELL ✓

INLEGAL ✗

ILLEGAL ✓

READIBLE ✗

READABLE ✓

RELEARNABLE IS STRANGE → SAY "EASY TO LEARN" INSTEAD.

SUFFIXES





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PRACTICE

COMPLETE WITH A SUFFIX AND CHANGE FORM IF NEEDED.

1. WE NEED MORE (INVOLVE) FROM PARENTS.
 2. IT WAS A VERY (DANGER) ROAD.
 3. SHE SPOKE (CLEAR) SO EVERYONE UNDERSTOOD.
 4. THEY PLAN TO (MODERN) THE SYSTEM.
 5. HIS (CREATIVE) IMPRESSED THE TEACHER.
- 



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- INVOLVEMENT
- DANGEROUS
- CLEARLY
- MODERNIZE
- CREATIVITY

ANSWER KEY





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PRACTICE

CHOOSE THE CORRECT FORM

- A. THE PLAN WAS (SUCCESS / SUCCESSFUL / SUCCESSFULLY).
 - B. THEY ACTED (CARE / CAREFUL / CAREFULLY).
 - C. THE (MANAGE / MANAGER / MANAGEMENT) DECIDED TO EXPAND.
- 



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ANSWER KEY

- A. SUCCESSFUL
- B. CAREFULLY
- C. MANAGEMENT (OR MANAGER, DEPENDING ON SENTENCE CONTEXT –
DISCUSS BOTH)

