

DC-3inglés

Prefix, Suffix, and Root Words

Words are made up of different parts. All of these parts give meaning to, or can change the meaning of, the word. When you know the meaning of any part, it will help you to understand the whole word. Three of these parts are:

Prefix: a group of letters that come at the beginning of a word.

Suffix: a group of letters that come at the end of a word.

Root: the basic part of a word; the prefixes and suffixes are added to it.

Some words are just root words, meaning they don't have a prefix or suffix. Some words have a root word and just a prefix or just a suffix. Let's explore parts of a words some more.

Example: *Change* is a root word. By adding the prefix '*un*' and the suffix '*able*' you create a new word with a new meaning, *unchangeable*. **un**

+ **change** + **able** = **unchangeable**

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑
prefix root suffix new word word

So, what does this new word mean? The prefix and suffix bring a new meaning to the root word. So, we need to figure out the meaning of the prefix and suffix to find the meaning of the new word.

The **prefix** '*un*' means '*not*'

The **root word** '*change*' means '*to alter*' or '*to make different*'

The **suffix** '*able*' means '*can do*'

So, ***unchangeable*** means '*not able to be altered or made different*'

Let's explore prefixes some more. The chart on the next page shows some common prefixes and their meaning.

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Here is a list of commonly used Prefixes:

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Meaning of Example
An	without	anarchy	without government
Anti	against	antibacterial	against bacteria
Bene	well, good	benefit	a good thing for someone
Bi	two	bicycle	vehicle with two wheels
Bio	life	biology	the study of living things
Co	with, together	cooperate	work together
Dis	not	disrespect	not respect
Ex	out	exit	the way to go out
Geo	earth	geology	the study of the earth
Hyper	over	hypertension	being overly tense
Im	not	impossible	not possible
In	not	incomplete	not complete
Inter	between	interstate	between states
Micro	small	microbiology	the study of tiny living things
Mid	middle	midway	middle of the way, half way
Mono	one	monorail	a train that runs on one track
Post	after	post-test	a test taken after the unit
Pre	before	pre-test	a test taken before the unit
Re	do again	repeat	to do something again
Trans	across	transatlantic	across the Atlantic Ocean
Un	not	unhappy	not happy