



NEW ERA
international school

PREFIX AND SUFFIXES

ENGLISH

WHAT IS PREFIX?

- A prefix is a letter or a group of letters that we add to the beginning of a word. Prefixes change the meanings of words. For example, the prefix *un-* (or *u-n*) can mean "not," "remove," or "opposite." Adding *un-* to the word "happy" gives you the word "unhappy," which means not happy.

PREFIXES

Prefix	Meaning	Example
non-, un-, im-, in-, il-, ir-	not, opposite	Nonsense, unhappy,
re-	again, back	revisit, replay
mis-	wrongly, not	misunderstand
de-	reverse, remove, out of	destruction, department
co-, com-, con-	with, together	construct, computer
dis-, dif-, di-	separation, away, apart	disease, dissect

FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN LEARNING PREFIXES:

1. Different prefixes in English can have similar meanings, such as *un-*, *in-* and *non-* all of which mean "not" or "opposite of." Also, the prefixes *mis-* and *ir-* mean "wrong," "wrongly," or "incorrectly."
2. Notice that double letters are possible. For example, when you add the prefix *im-* to words that begin with the letter "m," you get two "m"s as in "immeasurable." That's also true when you add *un-* to words that begin with the letter "n," as in "unnoticeable." The same is true for many other prefixes.

FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN LEARNING PREFIXES:

3. When adding a prefix to a word, the spelling of the base word never changes. For example, the prefix *un-* did not change the spelling of the word "happy." And, the prefix *re-* would not change the spelling of the word "live" in "relive."
4. Watch out for "lookalikes" – words that look like they contain prefixes but, in fact, do not. For example, the *un-* in the word "uncle" is not a prefix, nor is the *re-* in the words "reach" or "real."

WHAT IS SUFFIX?

- A suffix is a letter or group of letters added to the *end* of a word. Suffixes are commonly used to show the part of speech of a word. For example, adding "ion" to the verb "act" gives us "action," the noun form of the word. Suffixes also tell us the verb tense of words or whether the words are plural or singular.

Some common suffixes are *-er, -s, -es, -ed, -ing* and *-ly*.

SUFFIXES

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-er, -or	one who; or showing a comparison	teacher, faster
-able, -ible	capable of being	unforgettable, credible
-d, -ed	forming the past tense; or having the quality of	added; loved
-ing	forming a gerund meaning an "act of"; or the present participle	meaning; jogging
-ment	the act, state or result of an action	appointment, government
-ive	having the quality of	creative, divisive

FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN LEARNING SUFFIXES:

1. Some suffixes have more than one meaning. For example, the suffix *-er* may suggest a person who performs an action, like a teacher. But "er" is also commonly added to the ends of adjectives and adverbs. They compare two things and show that one is "more" than the other, such as in "faster" and "stronger."

FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN LEARNING SUFFIXES:

2. The spelling of a base word can change when a suffix is added. This is true of most base words ending in the letter "y." For instance, when we add the suffix *-ness* to the word "crazy" to make "craziness," we replace the "y" with an "i." This rule is also true of many base words ending in a silent "e" when the suffix begins with a **vowel**.

PREFIXES

- COME AT THE BEGINNING OF A WORD
- CHANGE THE MEANING

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE
un	not; reversal of	uncover
re	again; back	review
in / im	in; into; not	instead impatient
dis / dif	away; separate; not	divide disrespect
en / em	in; within; make	enslave embolden
pre	before	prefix
mis	wrong	mistaken
a	not; in, on; without	atypical aside

SUFFIXES

- COME AT THE END OF A WORD
- CHANGE THE MEANING

SUFFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE
-s, -es	more than one; verb maker	characters, reaches
-ed	in the past; quality, state	walked
-ing	doing something; quality, state	walking
-ly	how	safely
-er, -or	one who; action; compares	drummer dishonor bigger
-tion, -sion	noun: quality, action	tension
-able, -ible	able to be	reversible
-al, -ial	related to, like	partial