

Root Words, Prefixes and Suffixes

Many words are made up of small parts. If you know what the parts mean, you can make a good guess about what the whole word means. Think of the parts of the words in the box. Then guess what each one means.

overspending
preadmission
exhalation
disconnection
rerouted

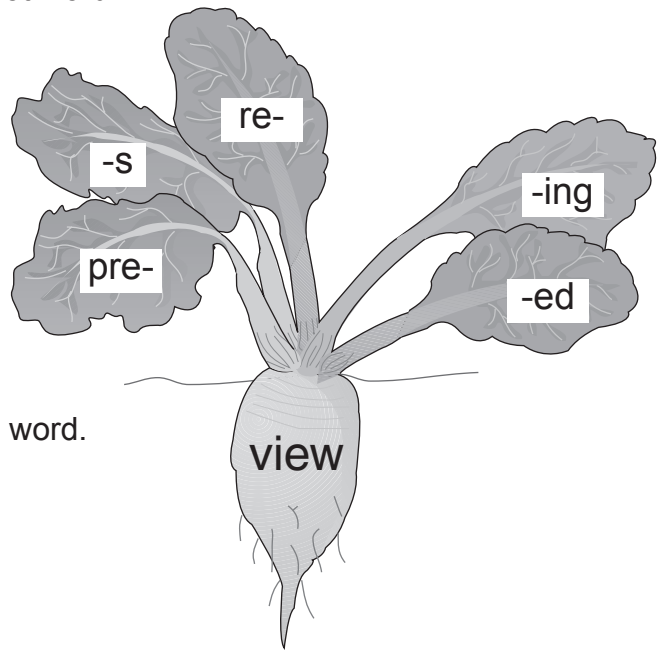
The main part of a word that has small parts is the root of the word. In the word **previewing**, the root is **view**.

You can **attach** or **fix** other parts to a root word to make a longer word.

A **prefix** is a part you add or fix **before** a root word.

<i>root</i>	<i>prefix</i>	<i>new word</i>
view	re-	review

Pre- means “before” and **-fix** means “attach.” A **prefix** is a word part you **attach before a root word**.



A **suffix** is a part you add or fix **after** a root word.

<i>root</i>	<i>suffix</i>	<i>new word</i>
view	-ing	viewing

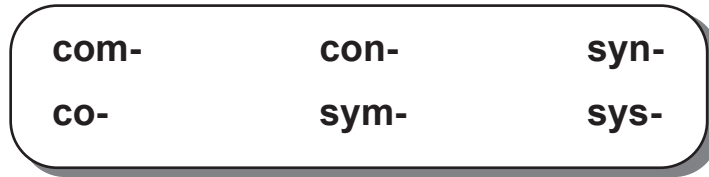
Suf- means “under” and **-fix** means “attach.” A **suffix** is a word part you **attach to the end of a root word**.

Look carefully at each word below. Think about the parts of each word as you guess what each one means.

outdweller	realignment	unpardoned	nonexistence
substructure	prejudgment	disrespect	interstate

Using Prefixes to Build Words ②

Each prefix in the box means **with** or **together**. Choose a prefix from the box to add to each root word below. (You may use a prefix more than once.) Then write what each new word means.



Tip: Some of these root words do not make real words without a prefix.

1. _____plete _____
2. _____bine _____
3. _____operate _____
4. _____phony _____
5. _____pathy _____
6. _____tact _____
7. _____thetic _____
8. _____tem _____
9. _____onym _____
10. _____bolize _____
11. _____metry _____
12. _____cern _____

Writing Words with Prefixes

List at least three words that begin with each prefix.

re-

non-

pre-

dis-

trans-

un-

sub-

pro-

com-

Grammar Suffixes

Some suffixes are grammar signals. They tell you things like plurals or verb tenses. Here are some examples.

The suffixes **-s** and **-es** make words plural.

rabbit + -s = rabbits
wish + -es = wishes

The suffix **-ed** shows the past tense of a verb.

kick + -ed = kicked
laugh + -ed = laughed

The suffix **-ing** shows the present tense or a noun made from a verb.

swim + -ing = swimming
relax + -ing = relaxing

The suffixes **-er** and **-est** show comparisons.

strong + -er = stronger (more strong)
strong + -est = strongest (most strong)

Underline each word that has a grammar suffix.

1. Ken was awarded three ribbons for his prize pig.
2. Which are easier to clean, your hands or your feet?
3. We're watching movies tonight with some friends.
4. Ted wrapped the present and placed two bows on top.
5. We climbed higher today than we ever climbed before.
6. My aunt married a columnist for two national newspapers.
7. These math problems are trickier than I thought.
8. We walked along the water and looked for pretty shells.
9. We used the widest ribbon to make bows around the trees.

