



## Prefixes and suffixes (parts of words at the beginning and end)

A prefix is part of a word that is attached to the beginning of a base word to change the meaning.

un + happy = unhappy

↑                    ↑                    ↑  
prefix            base word\*            new word

Words can have more than one prefix eg **over – re – act** (2 prefixes).

A suffix is part of a word that is attached to the end of a base word to change the meaning.

wonder + ful = wonderful

↑                    ↑                    ↑  
base word            suffix                    new word

Words can have more than one suffix eg **beauti – ful – ly** (2 suffixes).

Many words have both a prefix and a suffix eg **mis-understand-ing**.

**\*The word to which the prefixes and suffixes is attached is the base word.**

Some prefixes and suffixes

Prefix (before the root/base word)	Suffix (after the root/base word)
<b>anti</b> anticlockwise, antisocial	<b>able/ible</b> responsible, reliable
<b>bi</b> bicycle, bi-annual	<b>age</b> bandage, postage
<b>co</b> co-operate, co-pilot	<b>ate</b> terminate, congratulate
<b>de</b> descend, decompose	<b>en</b> wooden, lengthen
<b>dis</b> disengage, disarray	<b>ful</b> beautiful, wonderful
<b>en</b> enjoy, engulf	<b>hood</b> neighbourhood, parenthood
<b>ex</b> ex-Prime Minister	<b>ic</b> realistic, optimistic
<b>in/im</b> inadequate, improper	<b>ish</b> childish, selfish
<b>mis</b> mistook, misunderstood	<b>ism</b> realism, optimism
<b>multi</b> multimillionaire, multi-storeyed	<b>ist</b> realist, optimist
<b>non</b> non-profit, non-believer	<b>ity</b> reality, sensitivity
<b>pre</b> prefix, pre-dawn	<b>less</b> homeless, hopeless
<b>re</b> reapply, redesign	<b>ment</b> payment, commitment
<b>semi</b> semi-conscious, semicircle	<b>ness</b> happiness, kindness
<b>sub</b> subdivide, submarine	<b>ous</b> dangerous, famous
<b>tele</b> television, telescope	<b>ship</b> friendship, kinship
<b>trans</b> translate, transport	<b>sion/ssion/tion</b> decision, permission, generation
<b>un</b> unco-operative, unprovoked	<b>ward/s</b> backwards, northwards