

Prefixes

Prefixes are affixes that are placed before a base word or another prefix.

ab = away

ex. abstract = to take away

anti = against

ex. antibiotic = a drug that fights against bacteria

com (*also* co, col, con, cor) = with

ex. combat = to fight or battle with

contra = against, opposite

ex. contradict = to state the opposite

counter = opposite, opposite direction

ex. counteract = to act in opposition to

dis = opposite (negates the word)

ex. disadvantage = without advantage

extra = beyond, outside

ex. extracurricular = beyond or outside the regular curriculum or program of courses

hemi = half

ex. hemisphere = half of a sphere, half of the earth or globe

hyper = more than normal

ex. hyperactive = abnormally active

hypo = under

ex. hypodermic = under the skin

in = not, without, into, inside

ex. inaccurate = not accurate, not correct

inter = among, between

ex. international = between nations

intra = within

ex. intrastate = within the state

non = not, absence, negation

ex. nonexistence = absence of existence

out = exceeding, surpass, external
ex. outperform = to surpass in performance

over = excessively, too much, above
ex. overconfident = too much confidence

post = after in time or order
ex. postpone = to put off until after a certain time period has lapsed

pre = before in time or place
ex. prenatal = before birth

re = again
ex. repeat = to do again

semi = half, partly
ex. semicircle = half of a circle

sub = under, lower, nearly
ex. submarine = a vessel that can travel under water

trans = across
ex. transatlantic = across the Atlantic ocean

un = not, reversal, cancellation
ex. unhappy = not happy

under = below, beneath, lower in rank, not enough
ex. underarm = beneath the arm