

# PREFIXES

## Old English Origin

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLES
a	in, on, of, up, to, at	afire, abed, astride, afoot
back	back	backstroke, backward
be	around, about, away, completely	beset, besprinkle, beware
by	near, secondarily, incidental	by-play, by-product, bystander
for	away, from, off, apart	forswear, forsake, forfend
fore	before, previous	forethought, foreword
mis	badly, poorly, not	misfit, misfire, misbelieve
off	off	offside, offspring, offhand
out	better, greater, going away	outbound, outpatient, outrun
over	over, excessively, above	overthrow, overcast, overrun
un	not, no, a reversal	unfold, unknown, ungodly
under	below	undershirt, undergraduate
with	away, against	withdraw, withstand, withhold

## Latin Origin

ab (a, abs)	from, off, away	abdicate, abnormal, averse
ad (ac, af, ag, al, an, ap, ar, as, at)	to, toward, near, very	adverse, advocate, accede, affiliate, aggression, allude, annul, appear, arrogate, assent
ambi	both	ambidextrous, ambivalent
ante	before, previous	antecedent, antedate, ante
bene	well, good	benison, benefit, beneficiary
bi	two, twice	biennial, bilateral, bisect
circum	around	circumvent, circumspect
com (co, col, con, cor)	with, together, very, jointly	compare, complicate, coexist, collate, concentrate, corrupt
contra (contro, counter)	against, opposing	contradict, contravene, contrast, controversy, counter
de	away, opposed, off, down	demure, demolish, debark
demi	half	demigod, demitasse, demimonde

dis (di, dif)	away, out, apart from, reversal of, opposite of, down	dissent, dispel, digress, divert, diffuse, diffident, discourse, discuss, dislike
ex (e, ec, ef)	away, from, out, without, missing, former	excise, eccentric, expel, eject, efface, ex-wife
in (ig, il, im, ir)	not, opposing	incapable, insoluble, illicit, improvident, irrational, ignoble
in (il, im, ir)	in, into, within	induct, irrigate, immigrate
inter	among, between	intercede, intermittent
intro, intra	inwardly, to the inside, within	introvert, introduce, intravenous, intrastate
mal	bad, evil, wrong, ill	malady, malignant, malcontent
multi	many	multimillionaire, multiply
non	not	nonentity, nonessential
ob (oc, of, op)	over, against, toward, very, upon	obtrude, obstruct, occlude, offend, oppose, obloquy
per	through, thoroughly, completely	permeate, perspicuous, pernicious, percolate
post	after, later, behind, following	postlude, postpone, postscript
pre	before, earlier, in front of	preclude, prevent, predicate, precursor
pro	earlier, before, in front of, in place of, favoring, forward	protract, proponent, pronoun, profuse, proceed, pro-Anglo
re	back, backward, again	revoke, recede, recur, repeat
retro	back, backward	retrospect, retroactive
se	away, aside, away from	secede, seduce, seclude
semi	half, partly	semiannual, semicircular
sub (suc, suf, sub, sum, sup, sus)	under, beneath, lower, less	subjugate, subsist, succinct, suffuse, suggest, supplant, sustain, subsidy, subtle
super, sur	over, above, extra, to a degree greater than normal	superscript, supersede, supervise, surtax, surname
trans, tra	across, beyond, through	transfuse, transient, traduce
ultra	beyond, excessive	ultramodern, ultraviolet
uni	one	unicellular, unicorn, unite

### Greek Origin

a, an	lacking, without, not	amorphous, anemic, amoral, anarchy, aphasia
amphi	both	amphitheater, amphibiotic
ana	up, against, back	anagram, analysis, anachronism
anti	against, opposing, opposite	antipathy, antitoxin, antithesis
apo	from, off, separate	apostate, apology, apostle

cata, cath	down, away, thoroughly	catalyst, catastrophe
dia	through, across, apart	diameter, diaphanous, diagnose
dys	ill, bad, difficult	dysentery, dysphasia
exto, ect	outside, external	ectoderm, ectomorph, ectogenic
en, em	in, within, among	endemic, empiric, empathy
endo, end	within, inside	endobiotic, endoderm, endoblast
epi	on, over, outside, outer	epigram, epidermis, epitome
eu	good, pleasant, true, well	eugenics, eulogy, euphemism
hemi	half	hemisphere, hemiplegis
hetero	different	heterogeneous, heterolite
hyper	above, excessive, over	hyperbole, hypercritical
hypo	under, down, lower, less	hypodermic, hypothesis
iso	equal, alike	isomagnetic, isonomy, isosceles
macro	large, long	macrocosm, macroeconomics
mega	great, million	megacycle, megalith, megascopic
mes, meso	middle, intermediate	mesomorph, mesosphere
meta, met	later, with a change in	metabolism, metamorphosis
micro	small	microscope, micron, microsown
mono	one	monoplane, monopoly
ne, neo	new	neogenesis, neology, neophyte
olig	few	oligarchy, oligopoly
para	beside, beyond, related	parallel, paradox, paraphrase
peri	around, near, enclosing	perimeter, periscope
poly	many	polygon, polytechnic
pro	earlier, before, in front of, forward	progress, prophesy, prognosis, program
proto	first	prototype, protopathic
pseudo	false	pseudonym, pseudo, pseudopod
syn (sym, syl, sys)	with, together, at same time	synchronize, synthesis, sympathy, system, syllogism
tele	far	telepathy, telephone, telegony