## Root Words, Prefixes and Suffixes

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## What are root words, prefixes and suffixes ?

- Root words are the basic words to which affixes (prefixes and suffixes) are added to form the new word.
- A prefix is a group of letters placed before the root of a word. For example, the word "Improper" consists of the prefix "im-" [which means "not, without"] combined with the root word "proper"; the word "improper" means "not proper."
- A suffix is a group of letters placed after the root of a word. For example, the word Emotionless consists of the root word "Emotion" combined with the suffix "-less" [which means "without"]; the word "Emotionless" means "having no emotions."


Suffix
word joined at the end of a base word to change its meaning.

List of Prefixes with meaning and Example

| Prefix | Meaning | Example |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | able to, having the quality of | comfortable, portable |
| -al | relating to | annual comical |
| -er | comparative | bigger, stronger |
| -est | fuperlative | strongest, tiniest |
| -ful | forming an adjective | beautiful, grateful |
| -ible | derming an adverb | reversible, terrible, happily, lazily |
| -ily | or a gerund | acting, showing |
| -ing | without, not affected by | fring action, a material, |


| dis- | opposite of, not | disappear, disintegrate |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| em-, en- | cause to, put into | embed, enclose, engulf |
| epi- | upon, close to, after | epicentre, episcope, epidermis |
| ex- | beyond, more than | ex-president, exterminate |
| extra- | same | Extracurricular, extraordinary |
| fore- | not | forecast, forehead |
| homo- | into | hobperactive, hyperventilate |
| hyper- | irresponsible, indefinite |  |
| il-, im-, | beneath, below | between |


| omni- | all, every | omnibus, omnivore |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| para- | beside | parachute, paramedic |
| post- | after | post-mortem, post-natal |
| pre- | before | prefix, predetermine |
| re- | half | return, rediscover, |
| semi- | above, over | semicircle, semi-final |
| sub- | heat | submerge, submarine |
| super- | across, beyond | transport, transnational |
| therm- | not | triangle, tripod, tricycle |
| trans- | one | unfinished, unknown |
| tri- | unicycle, universal |  |
| un- | uni- |  |

## List of Suffixes with meaning and Example

| Suffix | Meaning | Example |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -acy | state or quality | democracy, accuracy, lunacy |
| -al | the action or process of | remedial, denial, trial, criminal |
| -ance, -ence | state or quality of | nuisance, ambience, tolerance |
| -dom | place or state of being | freedom, stardom, boredom |
| -er, -or | person or object that does a specified action | reader, creator, interpreter, inventor |
| -ism | doctrine, belief | Judaism, scepticism, escapism |
| -ist | person or object that does a specified action | Geologist, protagonist, sexist, scientist, theorist, communist |
| -ity, -ty | quality of | extremity, validity, enormity |
| -ment | condition | enchantment, argument |
| -ness | state of being | heaviness, highness, sickness |
| -ship | position held | friendship, hardship, internship |
| -sion, -tion | state of being | position, promotion, cohesion |
| -ate | become | mediate, collaborate, create |
| -en | become | sharpen, strengthen, loosen |
| -wise | in relation to | otherwise, likewise, clockwise |


| -ify, -fy | make or become | justify, simplify, magnify, satisfy |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| -ise, -ize | become | publicise, synthesise, hypnotise |
| -ward, -wards | direction | towards, afterwards, backwards, inward |
| -able, -ible | capable of being | having the form or |
| character of | fiscal, thermal, herbal, colonial |  |
| -al | in manner of or |  |
| resembling | picturesque, burlesque, grotesque |  |
| -esque | notable for | having the form or |
| character of |  |  |, | psychological, hypocritical, methodical, |
| :--- |
| -ful |
| -ic, -ical |
| characterised by |

## Root Words, Prefix and Suffix Ouestions With Answers

1. Slander
A. Commend
B. Heal
C. Flatter
D. Defame

Ans: D (Defame)
2. Beguile
A. Repulse
B. Give
C. Deceive
D. Refuse

Ans: C (Deceive)

## 3. Aqua

A. Water
B. Land
C. Air
D. None of Above

Ans: A (Water)

## 4. Irresolute

A. Angry
B. Undecided
C. Firm
D. Ignorant

Ans: B (Undecided)

## 5. Considerate

A. Kind
B. Minded
C. Agreeable
D. Thoughtful

Ans: D (Thoughtful)
6. Docile
A. Strong
B. Changeable
C. Submissive
D. Stubborn

Ans: C (Submissive)

## 7. Abuse

A. Use
B. Praise
C. Scorn
D. Raise

Ans: C (Scorn)

## 8. Deny

A. Regain
B. Refuse
C. Repair
D. Reduce

Ans: B (Refuse)

## 9. Nurture

A. To encourage
B. To grow
C. To see
D. To maintain

Ans: B (To grow)
10. Commotion
A. Cheer
B. Imbalance
C. Disturbance
D. Movement

Ans: C (Disturbance)
11. Repose
A. Place
B. Keep
C. Rest
D. Replace

Ans: C (Rest)
12. Adorn
A. Trust
B. Writer
C. Suspect
D. Beautiful

Ans: D (Beautiful)

## 13. Irrevocable

A. Change
B. Done
C. Unalterable
D. Reversible

Ans: C (Unalterable)
14. Advance
A. Reduce
B. Halt
C. Progress
D. Extend

Ans: C (Progress)
15. Impediment
A. Clear
B. Ailment
C. Incapable
D. Obstruction

Ans: D (Obstruction)
16. Impeccable
A. Perfect
B. Fair
C. Faultless
D. Criminal

Ans: C (Faultless)

## 17. Vacillate

A. Waver
B. Never
C. Quiver
D. Queer

Ans: A (Waver)
18. Elastic
A. Rubbery
B. Flexible
C. Expensive
D. Exciting

Ans: B (Flexible)
19. Adverse
A. Negative
B. Facilitating
C. Decorative
D. Derogative

Ans: A (Negative)

## 20. Genuine

A. Good
B. Real
C. Attractive
D. Lovable

Ans: B (Real)

## 21. Forebode

A. Alarm
B. Foretell
C. Failure
D. Forefront

Ans: B (Foretell)

## 22. Surreptitiously

A. Calmly
B. Secretly
C. Suggestively
D. Quietly

Ans: B (Secretly)

## 23. Change

A. Alter
B. Renew
C. Review
D. Repeat

Ans: A (Alter)

## 24. Forego

A. Renounce
B. Disown
C. Leave
D. Accumulate

Ans: A (Renounce)

## 25. Coarse

A. Academic
B. Grain
C. Rough
D. Training

Ans: C (Rough)

## 26. Impost

A. Fertilizer
B. Dispatch
C. Tax
D. Postage

Ans: C (Tax)

## 27. Prodigal

A. Huge
B. Prodigious
C. Enormous
D. Wasteful

Ans: D (Wasteful)

## 28. Knave

A. Emperor
B. Enchanter
C. Soldier
D. Scoundrel

Ans: D(Scoundrel)
29. Warranty
A. Threat
B. Guarantee
C. Order for arrest
D. Issue

Ans: B (Guarantee)
30. Miraculous
A. Mysterious
B. Sudden
C. Amazing
D. Unexpected

Ans: C (Amazing)

## 31. Rectify

A. Correct
B. Alter
C. Erase
D. Continue

Ans: A (Correct)

## 32. Authentic

A. Admirable
B. Genuine
C. Adjustment
D. None of the above

Ans: B (Genuine)

## 33. Horrendous

A. Very huge
B. Greatly unpleasant
C. Sincere
D. Most Pleasant

Ans: B (Greatly unpleasant)
34. Provisional
A. Casual
B. Lucky
C. Visible
D. Temporary

Ans: D (Temporary)

## 35. Cordial

A. Smooth
B. Friendly
C. Sophisticated
D. Reserved

Ans: B (Friendly)
36. Pensive
A. Careless
B. Thoughtful
C. Penitent
D. Unattached

Ans: B (Thoughtful)
37. Avert
A. Hide
B. Obey
C. Excuse
D. Avoid

Ans: D(Avoid)

## 38. Paucity

A. Sincerity
B. Shortfull
C. Publicity
D. Downfall

Ans: B (Shortfull)
39. Predominantly
A. Emphatically
B. Forcefully
C. Mostly
D. Profoundly

Ans: C (Mostly)
40. Mitigated
A. Lessen
B. Devalued
C. Moribund
D. Sharpened

Ans: A (Lessen)
41. Lousy
A. Unbearable
B. Awful
C. Loose
D. Stinking

Ans: B (Awful)

## 42. Prospective

A. Preceded
B. Prosperous
C. Perplexed
D. Possible

Ans: D (Possible)

## 43. Infuriate

A. Burn
B. Disagree
C. Threaten
D. Enrage

Ans: D (Enrage)

## 44. Dormant

A. Active
B. Inactive
C. Grand
D. Courage

Ans: B (Inactive)
45. Insolent
A. Respectful
B. Disrespectful
C. Cowardly
D. Nice

Ans: B (Disrespectful)
46. Obese
A. Skinny
B. Underweight
C. Corpulent
D. Greedy

Ans: C (Corpulent)

## 47. Pedant

A. Formalist
B. Neckless
C. Worm
D. Warm

Ans: A (Formalist)
48. Skimp
A. Release
B. Scrimp
C. Timid
D. Torture

Ans: B (Scrimp)
49. Comrades
A. Slobber
B. Botch
C. Ally
D. Allay

Ans: C (Ally)
50. Squander
A. Save
B. Waste
C. Abandoned
D. Abundant

Ans: B (Waste)
51. The prefix meaning external is
A. exo
B. intra
C. endo
D. post

Ans: A (exo)
52. The prefix meaning one is
A. uni
B. tri
C. bi
D. quadri

Ans: A (Uni)
53. The prefix meaning below normal is
A. hyper
B. pri
C. mesd
D. hypo

Ans: D (hypo)
54. he prefix re- means
A. again
B. not
C. full
D. before

Ans: A (again)
55. Captivate
A. on
B. en
C. tion
D. ton

Ans: C (tion)
56. What does the suffix "ing" mean?
A. past tense
B. action or process
C. full of
D. runner

Ans: B (action or process)

## 57. The suffix-less means

$\qquad$
A. not
B. without
C. state of or condition of
D. full of

Ans: B (without)
58. The prefix pre means
A. never
B. before
C. after
D. during

Ans: B (before)
59. The root word theo means
A. Belief in
B. God
C. A person's name
D. Many

Ans: B (God)
60. Bio means
A. Animal
B. Life
C. Science
D. None of these

Ans: B (Life)

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