

English: Prefixes

A prefix is something we add to the beginning of an existing word to form a new word.

Negative/Opposite:

un-	unnecessary, unhealthy, unlikely, unconstitutional
in-	indisposed, indecisive, inadequate, inappropriate
im-	impossible, imperfect, impenetrable, improbable
de-	decrease, deform, decompose, decapitate, defrost
dis-	dislike, disapprove, disagree, discourage, disable, discharge
ir-	irresponsible, irreversible, irrelevant
il-	illegal, illegitimate, illegible

wrongly:	mis-	misunderstand, misinterpret, mishear, mismatch
opposite:	a-/ab-	asymmetric, asexual, abnormal
action:	en-	encourage, enable, enact, endanger
against;	anti-	antibiotic, antibody, anticlockwise, antidepressant
previous:	ante-	ante-penultimate, antenatal, antechamber, antediluvian
lacking:	non-	non-smoker, non-smoking, non-starter, non-violence
do better:	out-	outdo, outwit, outscore, outweigh
excessive:	over-	overdo, overspend, overreact, overbook
insufficient:	under-	underspend, under-react, underrated, under-cook
before:	pre-	preview, predate, prejudge, pre-engineer
after:	post-	postoperative, postmodernism, postmortem
again:	re-	review, retest, recreate, re-evaluate, redo, revisit, remake
in front:	fore-	foreman, foreword, forearm, forehead

Prefix: be-

<u>Verbs</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Possible Origin</u>
to become	to change	to come to be
to bedeck	to decorate/cover	to cover with a deck
to bedevil	to cause problems	devil
to befall	to happen	to fall
to befit	to be appropriate for	to fit
to befriend	to make friends with	friend
to begrudge	to envy	to grudge (= to be resentful)
to beguile	to enchant/to charm	guile (= intelligence)
to behave	to act	to have (?)
to behead	to cut off a head	head
to behold	to see	to hold
to belittle	to disparage	little
to belong	to be the property of	long (?)
to berate	to scold	rate (?)
to beset	to cause problems	set
to besiege	to capture a place by force	siege (= blockade)
to bestow	to present (an honour)	to stow (?)
to betray	to give information to enemy	tray (?)
to beware	to be cautious	to be aware
to bewitch	to enchant/to put a spell on	witch
<u>Adjectives</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Possible Origin</u>
becalmed	tranquil	calm
becoming	charming	to become
bedevilled	tormented	devil
bedraggled	dirty and messy	to draggle (= to make dirty)
befuddled	confused	to fuddle (= to confuse)
beguiling	charming	to beguile
belated	tardy, overdue	late
beloved	much loved	to love
bemused	puzzled, confused	muse (= inspiration for an artist)
bereaved	lost someone who died	to reave (= to rob by force (archaic))
besotted	infatuated	sot (= a drunk) / to sot (= to drink)
bespectacled	with glasses	spectacles (= glasses)
bespoke	made for a special use	spoke (?)
bewildered	confused	to wilder (= to confuse (archaic))
bewitched	enchanted	to bewitch
<u>Others</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Possible Origin</u>
because	due to the reason	cause (= motive)
behind	to the back	hind (= back)
below	under	low
beside	next to	side

Prefixes: over- / under-

In English, the prefix “over-“ means “excessive” or “above”, and “under-“ means “insufficient” or “below”. Here are some examples:

Verb	Significado	Opposite (if exists)
overact	<i>exagerar na atuação</i>	
overbook	<i>ter mais reservas que lugares</i>	
overcharge	<i>cobrar em excesso</i>	undercharge
overcompensate	<i>compensar em excesso</i>	
overdo	<i>exagerar</i>	underdo
overdress	<i>arrumar-se demais</i>	underdress
overeat	<i>comer demais</i>	
overemphasize	<i>ênfatisar demais</i>	underemphasize
overestimate	<i>superestimar</i>	underestimate
overfeed	<i>superalimentar</i>	
overflow	<i>encher demais</i>	
overflow	<i>transbordar</i>	
overheat	<i>superaquecer</i>	
overlap	<i>sobrepor / sobreposição</i>	
overload	<i>sobrecarregar</i>	
overpower	<i>subjuar</i>	
overreact	<i>reagir exageradamente</i>	underreact
overrun	<i>passar do tempo previsto</i>	underrun
oversee	<i>supervisionar</i>	
oversimplify	<i>simplificar demais</i>	overcomplicate
oversleep	<i>dormir demais</i>	
overspend	<i>gastar demais</i>	underspend
overtake	<i>ultrapassar</i>	
overuse	<i>usar demais</i>	underuse
overwork	<i>trabalhar demais</i>	underwork

Adjective	Significado	Opposite (if exists)
overactive	<i>muito ativo</i>	underactive
overambitious	<i>muito ambicioso</i>	
overanxious	<i>muito nervoso</i>	
overcome	<i>superar</i>	
overconfident	<i>confiante em excesso</i>	
overcooked	<i>cozido demais</i>	undercooked
overcrowded	<i>superlotado</i>	
overdrawn	<i>no negativo (conta bancária)</i>	
overdue	<i>além do prazo / vencido (conta)</i>	
overenthusiastic	<i>entusiasta demais</i>	
overexcited	<i>sobre-exaltado</i>	
overgrown	<i>coberto de mato</i>	
overhead	<i>por cima, no alto (posição)</i>	
overlong	<i>muito comprido, tempo demais</i>	
overpaid	<i>pago em excesso</i>	underpaid
overpopulated	<i>superpovoado</i>	underpopulated
overpriced	<i>caro demais</i>	underpriced
overprotective	<i>superprotetor</i>	
overripe	<i>maduro demais (frutas)</i>	
overstaffed	<i>excesso de funcionários</i>	understaffed
overweight	<i>sobrepeso</i>	underweight

Noun	Significado
overabundance	<i>superabundância</i>
overdose	<i>overdose</i>
overpass	<i>viaduto</i>
overproduction	<i>superprodução</i>
overtime	<i>hora extra</i>
overcoat	<i>sobretudo</i>
overview	<i>visão geral</i>

Adverb	Significado
overnight	<i>por uma noite</i>
overseas	<i>no exterior</i>

I'm overworked and underpaid!

Prefix: there-

In English, the prefix “*there-*” is usually associated with very formal words, and is often used to create a conjunction.

Word	Significado
thereabout / thereabouts	<i>por aí</i>
thereafter	<i>depois</i>
thereby	<i>por meio disso</i>
therefore	<i>portanto</i>
therefrom	<i>daí</i>
therein	<i>dentro disso</i>
thereof	<i>dele</i>
thereon / thereupon	<i>sobre isso</i>
thereto	<i>para isso</i>
thereunder	<i>sob isso</i>
therewith	<i>com isso</i>

English: Suffixes

A suffix is something we add to the end of an existing word to form a new word.

-ee	a person who receives interviewee, employee, payee, trainee
-er	a person who provides interviewer, employer, payer, trainer
-er	comparative bigger, easier, nicer, faster
-er	profession teacher, dancer, driver, singer
-est	superlative biggest, easiest, nicest, fastest
-ity	noun (<i>from adjective</i>) regularity, speciality, curiosity, reality
-ness	noun (<i>from adjective</i>) happiness, friendliness, sadness, greatness
-tion	noun (<i>from verb</i>) simulation, creation, calculation, renovation
-ess	female noun (<i>avoided in the USA</i>) princess, waitress, hostess, goddess
-ful	adjective: having much (<i>from noun</i>) wonderful, beautiful, useful
-less	adjective: lack of (<i>from noun</i>) useless, careless, flightless
-ly	adverb (<i>from adjective</i>) happily, safely, quickly, violently, repeatedly
-ward	direction toward, forward, backward, homeward, upward, downward, seaward
-wise	circular direction clockwise, anticlockwise
-ish	adjective: similar to/like greenish, biggish, roundish
-ship	state (<i>noun from noun</i>) partnership, relationship, citizenship, friendship, membership, leadership, sponsorship
-let	small piglet, booklet, ringlet, leaflet

-able	adjective (<i>from verb</i>) understandable, adorable, achievable, countable
-y	adjective (<i>from noun</i>) noisy, lucky, sunny, rainy, sexy, trendy, nosey (you can add "-y" to any noun to make an informal adjective: boxy, girly, foxy, etc.)
-ist	profession dentist, receptionist, linguist
-ian/ese/ish	nationalities Australian, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Scottish, British
-ment	noun (<i>from verb</i>) statement, government, pavement, ornament
-al	adjective (<i>from noun</i>) or noun (<i>from verb</i>) abdominal, personal, sensational / betrayal, appraisal, disposal
-ing	noun/gerund (<i>from verb</i>) meaning, swimming, bedding, clearing
-en	verb (<i>from noun or adjective</i>) threaten, darken, shorten, sweeten
-ed	adjective (<i>from noun</i>) bearded, dressed, blue-eyed, six-fingered
-ism	noun (<i>from noun</i>) fundamentalism, professionalism, materialism
-nym	noun synonym, antonym, homonym, acronym

Can a word have more than one suffix?

2 suffixes:	use	->	useless	->	uselessness		
	beauty	->	beautiful	->	beautifully		
	sweet	->	sweeten	->	sweetener		
3 suffixes:	ration	->	rational	->	rationalize	->	rationalization
	sense	->	sensation	->	sensational	->	sensationalism
	threat	->	threaten	->	threatening	->	threateningly
	mean	->	meaning	->	meaningless	->	meaninglessness

Extreme example:

antidisestablishmentarianism

anti – dis – establish – ment – arian – ism

(2 prefixes and 3 suffixes)

Suffix: -ward

The suffix “-ward” means “in the direction of”. Here are some examples:

<u>Word</u>	<u>Direction</u>	<u>Example</u>
toward	in the direction of	He walked toward the front door.
forward	ahead/in front	Pawns in Chess can only move forward.
backward	behind/back	I drive backward out of my garage.
upward	vertical up	The balloon floated upward.
downward	vertical down	The balloon floated downward.
homeward	home	The boat is sailing homeward.
seaward	the sea	The birds flew seaward.
landward	the land	The ship sailed landward.
skyward	the sky	He threw the ball skyward.
northward	the north	They hiked northward.
southward	the south	They hiked southward.
westward	the west	They hiked westward.
eastward	the east	They hiked eastward.
inward	the inside	He looked inward and saw nobody.
outward	the outside	He looked outward and saw many people.

Notes

1. The word “toward” demands an object. The other words don’t.
2. These words have an “s” in British English: towards, backwards, outwards, etc.

Suggested video: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/kNwsErQHguE>

Suffix: -hood

The *hood* suffix usually describes a **state** or **condition**, and forms a word that is always a noun.

A) Family role

parenthood, motherhood, fatherhood, brotherhood, sisterhood, grandparenthood

B) Period in life

babyhood, childhood, boyhood, girlhood, manhood, womanhood, adulthood

C) State

knighthood, maidenhood, bachelorhood, spinsterhood, priesthood, sainthood

D) Other examples

- neighborhood - the area where you live
- likelihood - synonym for “probability”
- livelihood - the way to earn money to make a living
- falsehood - synonym for “lie”
- brotherhood - close group of men (like “The Masons”)
- sisterhood - close group of women (like nuns)