

Affixes III - Prefixes

In this section, we will focus on prefixes. Remember how prefixes work: they change a word when it is before that word. For example:

pre + view = preview: "look at before"

re + read = reread: "read again"

in + sane = insane: "not sane, not healthy mentally"

Prefixes add to, or change, the meaning of a root word.

Directions: First, learn each suffix's meaning. Next, review the examples. Then, look up the "new word" in your dictionary, and write its definition in the blank space.

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLES	NEW WORD AND DEFINITION
un- in- non - a-	not	unrestrained unaccountable invisible nondrinker apolitical	unforgivable:
anti-	against	antibiotic anticlimactic	antidote:
mis- dis -	wrong, ill	mistake misunderstand	mispronounce:
mal-	bad, wrong	malfunction malpractice	malady:
multi-	many	multitude multimillionaire	multicolored:
e, ex-	out, away from	emigrate excise	exit:
re-	again, back	review revitalize	review:
semi-	half	semicolon semiconscious	semiannually:
syn-, sym-	together	synchronize synthesize	symbiosis:
trans-	across	trans-Atlantic translate	transcend:
tri-	three	tripod tricycle	trilateral:
pre-	before	preview presuppose	premature:
hyper-	above, beyond	hyperventilate	hyperactive:

hypertension

super- above, upon supernatural
superimpose **superbug:**

sub- under subordinate
submarine **subway:**

Practice. Choose the best word from the "New Words" column to fill the blank.

1. It's too early to plant a vegetable garden; it would be _____ to do that.
2. I cannot accept that she stole money from me. I think that is _____!
3. Go down the stairs, under the sidewalk, and take the _____.
4. Their child is so active that he can't sit still. He can't control his movements. He is _____.
5. We have a _____ cat – she's black, white and orange.
6. He is often sick with strange _____.
7. Three different countries are attending the political meeting; it's a _____ meeting.
8. Come in through the entrance, go out through the _____.

Try guessing at a new word using one of these prefixes. The word may or MAY NOT be listed above.

1. A child that is **too active** is _____.
2. A **man** with abilities **above** other men's is a _____.
3. Chocolate that **isn't very sweet** is called _____.
4. "Vigorate" means "give **life to**." To _____ means to "give life to **again**."
5. Medicine that acts against **inflammation** is _____.
6. Things that are **not known** are _____.
7. A detergent that is **not toxic** is _____.
8. When you have bad luck, or a **bad fortune**, you have _____.

Exercises

A. Give a short definition of the *anti-* words in the following sentences.

1. The plane was shot down by anti-aircraft guns.

2. The Pro-Life group is in favor of anti-abortion legislation.

3. The two enemies could not hide their mutual antipathy.

4. The Jewish delegation accused them of anti-Semitism.

5. This new antitrust law is designed to encourage more competition.

6. Synonyms are two words that have the same meaning.

What are antonyms? (Notice the irregular spelling.)

B. Add the prefix *a-* or *an-* to the following list of bases. Check the unfamiliar words in your dictionary.

___ typical

___ esthetic

___ theism

___ archy

___ sexual

___ pathy

___ political

___ nonymous

___ aerobic

___ moral

___ morphous

___ symmetry

C. *dis-* can be prefixed to many words. Make a list of some that you know and compare your list with a friend, a teacher, or the dictionary.

D. Below is a list of *mis-* and *mal-* words without their prefixes. See if you can match them with the proper prefix. You may make a few mismatches, but that's OK. Everybody makes mistakes.

___ behave

___ content

___ practice

___ judge

___ manage

___ fit

___ fortune

___ function

___ lead

___ nutrition

___ guide

___ adjusted

___ print

___ place

___ spell

B. In the list below, add the prefix *in-* and its variants *im-*, *ir-*, *il-* to the base form.

___dependent	___perfect	___balance	___sane
___mature	___moral	___secure	___literate
___responsible	___capable	___logical	___proper
___definite	___direct	___rational	

C. Complete these sentences with a word that is prefixed with *non-*.

1. She doesn't smoke. She's a _____.
2. They are not Moslems. They are _____.
3. He does not write fiction. He writes only _____.
4. This flight does not stop between New York and London. It is _____.
5. Gandhi was against violence. He practiced _____.
6. This doesn't make sense. It's _____.
7. These chemicals are not toxic. They are _____.
8. He never conformed. He was a _____.
9. He didn't pay his debts. He was guilty of _____.
10. This population is not an Arab population. It is _____.
11. You aren't a member of the club. You're a _____.
12. The World Bank has a lot of loans that are not performing. They are _____ loans.

D. In the following story there are several negative prefixes, and a few *in-* prefixes that mean "in" or "into." Highlight the words with negative prefixes.

Nonresident Policy Questioned

KAPITALIA, Lowland (PLN) – The leader of the Lowland Independent Party (LIP), C. M. Unsap, yesterday called for the government to take action on the "nonresident" problem.

Citing statistics released by the Lowland Immigration Department, the opposition leader pointed out that in the past five years over 7,000 Highlanders have been granted refugee status in Lowland, and an estimated 20,000 others have entered the country illegally.

So far, the Lowland government has been uninterested in stopping the flow because illegal entrants have been willing to take jobs that most Lowlanders find unattractive and financially unrewarding, according to Unsap.

Mr. Unsap also pointed out that the Department of Labor has released statistics showing that unemployment among Lowlanders has been steadily increasing. Unskilled Lowland workers have been especially hard hit, leading to a growing anti-Highlander sentiment that erupted in riots last spring in Kapitalia.

Also taking aim at the government's policy toward refugees, Unsap claimed that few, if any, of the refugees were leaving Highland for political reasons, and that unemployment in Highland is the real reason for the influx of so-called refugees, most of whom are uneducated and illiterate.

Calling the government's attitude toward the problem irresponsible, Unsap also warned that an unlimited influx of non-Lowlanders would be a serious strain on the country's already inadequate social services, leading to further unrest among Lowland's unemployed.



LIP Leader C. M. Unsap