

Common Word Roots

Root	Meaning	Example	Definition
agri	field	agronomy	field-crop production and soil management
anthropo	man	anthropology	the study of man
astro	star	astronaut	one who travels in interplanetary space
bio	life	biology	the study of life
cardio	heart	cardiac	pertaining to the heart
cede	go	precede	to go before
chromo	color	chromatology	the science of colors
demos	people	democracy	government by the people
derma	skin	epidermis	the outer layer of skin
dyna	power	dynamic	characterized by power and energy
geo	earth	geology	the study of the earth
helio	sun	heliotrope	any plant that turns toward the sun
hydro	water	hydroponics	growing of plants in water reinforced with nutrients
hypno	sleep	hypnosis	a state of sleep induced by suggestion
ject	throw	eject	to throw out
magni	great, big	magnify	to enlarge, to make bigger
man(u)	hand	manuscript	written by hand
mono	one	monoplane	airplane with one wing
ortho	straight	orthodox	right, true, straight opinion
pod	foot	pseudopod	false foot
psycho	mind	psychology	study of the mind in any of its aspects
pyro	fire	pyrometer	an instrument for measuring temperatures
script	write	manuscript	hand written
terra	earth	terrace	a raised platform of earth
thermo	heat	thermometer	instrument for measuring heat
zoo	animal	zoology	the study of animals

Common Prefixes

ante-	before	antebellum	before the war
anti-	against	antifreeze	liquid used to guard against freezing
auto-	self	automatic	self-acting or self-regulating
bene-	good	benefit	an act of kindness; a gift
circum-	around	circumscribe	to draw a line around; to encircle
contra-	against	contradict	to speak against
de-	reverse, remove	defoliate	remove the leaves from a tree

dis-	apart	dislocate	to unlodge
dys-	bad	dysfunctional	not functioning
ecto-	outside	ectoparasite	parasite living on the exterior of animals
endo-	within	endogamy	marriage within the tribe
ex-	out	excavate	to dig out
equi-	equal	equidistant	equal distance
extra-	beyond	extraterrestrial	beyond the earth
hyper-	over	hypertension	high blood pressure
hypo-	under	hypotension	low blood pressure
in-	in	interim	in between
inter-	between	intervene	come between
intra-	within	intramural	within bounds of a school
intro-	in, into	introspect	to look within, as one's own mind
macro-	large	macroscopic	large enough to be observed by the naked eye
mal-	bad	maladjusted	badly adjusted
micro-	small	microscopic	so small that one needs a microscope to observe
multi-	many	multimillionaire	one having two or more million dollars
neo-	new	neolithic	new stone age
non-	not	nonconformist	one who does not conform
pan-	all	pantheon	a temple dedicated to all gods
poly-	many	polygonal	having many sides
post-	after	postgraduate	after graduating
pre-	before	precede	to go before
pro-	for	proponent	a supporter
proto-	first	prototype	first or original model
pseudo-	false	pseudonym	false name; esp., an author's pen-name
re-, red-	back again	rejuvenate	to make young
re-, red-	together	reconnect	to put together again
retro-	backward	retrospect	a looking back on things
semi-	half	semicircle	half a circle
sub-	under	submerge	to put under water
super-	above	superfine	extra fine
tele-	far	telescope	seeing or viewing afar
trans-	across	transalpine	across the Alps

Number prefixes

uni- one	tetra- four	oct- eight
mono- one	quint- five	nov- nine

bi- two	pent- five	dec- ten
duo- two	sex- six	lat- side
di- two	hex- six	ped- foot
tri- three	sept- seven	pod- foot
quad- four	hept- seven	

Math & Science Affixes and Roots

Root or Affix	Example
aqua (water)	aquarium
hydro (water)	hydroplane
hemi (half)	hemisphere
semi (half)	semicircle
equi (equal)	equivalent
tele (far off)	telescope
micro (small)	microfilm
onomy (science of)	astronomy
ology (study of)	geology
uni (one)	universe
bi (two)	bicycle
tri (three)	triangle
octa (eight)	octagon
dec (ten)	decade
centi (hundred)	centimeter
milli (thousand)	millimeter
bio (life)	biology
astro (star)	astronaut
thermo (heat)	thermodynamic
meter (measure)	diameter
ped (foot)	pedestrian
pod (foot)	tripod

Prefixes that mean "no": a- de- dis-, in- non- un-, contra

Examples: disqualify, nondescript, unscrupulous, contradict, inadvertent

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
a-, an-	without, not	asexual, atypical, amoral, anarchy
de-	reverse action, away	defrost, demystify, desensitize, deduct
dis-, dif-, di-	not, apart	dissatisfied, disorganized, different, divert

in-, il-, it-, im-	not	inappropriate, invisible, illegal, impossible
non-	not	nonproductive, nonessential, nonsense
un-	not	unlikely, unnoticeable, unreliable
contra-, counter-	against	contrary, contradict, counterproductive

Prefixes that indicate "when," "where," or "more": pre-, post-, ante-, inter-, infra-, trans-, sub-, circum-, ultra

Examples: premature, postscript, anteroom, intervene, transformation

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
pre-, pro-	before	pre-dinner, preliminary, previous, prologue
post-	after	postwar, postoperative, postpone
ante-	before	antecedent, antechamber
inter-	between, among	interstate, intercept, interfere
intra-	within	intramural, intrastate, intravenous
trans-	across	transcontinental, transparent, transaction
sub-	under	submarine, submerge, subjugate
circum-	around	circumnavigate, circumference
ultra-	beyond, on the far side of, excessive	ultrasonic, ultraviolet, ultraconservative