

COMMON PREFIXES, ROOTS, AND SUFFIXES

WORD PARTS	MEANING	EXAMPLES
a, an	without, not	atypical
ab	away (from)	absent
able, ible	capable of	portable, edible
ac	characteristic of	cardiac
acer, acr	sour, bitter	acerbity, acrid
ad	to, toward	adhere
age	state of, rank, place	marriage
al	relating to	annual
ambi	both	ambivalent
an, ian	belonging to	suburban, mammalian
ance, ancy, ence, ency	act of, state of, condition of	assistance, discrepancy, dependence, dependency
ant, ent, er, or, eer, ier, ine	one who acts	clairvoyant, farmer, sailor, auctioneer, gondolier, heroine, dependent
ante	before	anteroom
anthropo	man, mankind	anthropoid
anti	against, opposed	antipathy
aqua	water	aquatic
ar, ary, ory	relating to	similar, imaginary, sensory
arch	chief, principle	archenemy
aud	hear	auditory
auto	self	automatic
bene	well, good	beneficial
bibl	book	Bible
bio	life	autobiography
brev	short	brevity
cede, ceed	go, move	proceed, recede
chron	time	chronological
cide	killing	pesticide
circum	around	circumference
cis	cut	excise
clar	clear	clarity

WORD PARTS	MEANING	EXAMPLES
co, con, com	together, with	cooperate, conspiracy
cogni	know	recognize
counter, contra	against, opposite	counteract, contrary
cred	believe	credential
crypt	secret, hidden	cryptic
cycl	circle	cyclical
de	from, away	depart
dent	tooth	dentist
derm	skin	dermatitis
dia	through, apart	diagonal
dic, dict	say	dictate
dis	apart, from, out, opposite of	distract
dom	state, domain of, condition	kingdom
dox	praise, belief	orthodox
duc, duct	lead	aqueduct
dyna	power	dynamic
dys	hard, ill, with difficulty	dyslexia
ee	person who is	employee
ego	I, self	egoist
en	to make, become	shorten
epi	on, outer	epigram
ese	relating to	journalese
eu	well, good	euphemism
ex	out, from	exhale
extra	beyond, outside	extracurricular
fort	strong	fortress
frater	brother	fraternity
fy	to make	fortify
gamy	marriage	monogamy
gen	race, origin, kind	Genesis
geo	earth	geography
graph, gram	write	graphology
gress	go, move	progress

WORD PARTS	MEANING	EXAMPLES
gyn	woman	gynephobia
hetero	other, different	heterogeneous
homo, homeo	same, like, similar	homogeneous
hydr	water	hydroplane
hyper	excessive, over, above, beyond	hyperfunction
hypo	under, below, beneath	hypodermic
ic, ical	of, like	manic, numerical
il, im, in, ir	in, into, on, within, not, opposing	infiltrate, immigrate
inter	between	interfere
intra	within	intrastate
ion, sion, tion	state of, condition of, act of	tension
ish	like	childish
ism	doctrine, practice of	plagiarism
ist	person who	dentist
junct	join	conjunction
less	without	careless
logy	study of	biology
macro	large	macromolecule
magn	large, great	magnify
mal	bad	malpractice
man	hand	manicure
mater	mother	maternity
mega	big	megaphone
ment	state of being	improvement
meter, metr	measure	thermometer
micro	small	microscope
mis	wrong, ill	misinform
miss, miso	hatred	misanthrope
mit, miss	send	transmit, missile
morph	form, shape	amorphous
mort	death	mortality
multi	many	multitude
nav	ship, sail	naval

WORD PARTS	MEANING	EXAMPLES
neb	hazy, cloudy	nebulous
non	not	nonadjustable
nym	name	pseudonym
omni	all	omnipotent
ortho	straight, right	orthopedics
pan	all	pandemonium
para	beside	parallel
pater	father	paternal
path	feeling, suffering	apathy
ped, pod	foot	pedal
pel	push, drive	propel
per	through, completely	perforate
peri	around	perimeter
phil	love, like	philanthropy
phobia	fear	claustrophobia
phon	sound	phonics
photo	light	photostat
poly	many	polygamy
pon, pos	place	opponent, position
port	carry	porter
post	after	postpone
pot	strength, ability	potential
pre	before	preamble
pseudo	false	pseudoscience
psych	mind, soul	psychology
pyr	fire	pyromania
re	back, again	return, redo
rupt	break	rupture
scrib, script	write	transcribe, scripture
scop	see, look	telescope
se	away, from	seclude, segregate
sect	cut	dissect
semi	half	semiprivate

WORD PARTS	MEANING	EXAMPLES
simil	like	similar
soph	wise	sophomore
spect	see, look	spectator
sub	under	submarine
super	over, above	supersonic
syn, sym	with, together	synchronize, symphony
tech	art, skill	technology
tele	far	telephone
ten	hold	tenacity
tend	stretch	extend
terra	earth	terrier, terrace
the	god	atheist
therm	heat	thermal
tort	twist	distort
trans	across	transport
tudo	quality, state, result	servitude
ultra	beyond, excessively	ultramodern
un	not, opposing, reverse	unlawful
under	below, beneath	underground
viv	life	vivacious
voc	cal, voice	vocation
vor	eat greedily	omnivorous

PREFIXES OF NUMBERS

WORD PARTS	MEANING	EXAMPLE
uni	one	uniform
mono	one	monologue
du, duo	two	duet
bi	two	biped
tri	three	triangle
tetra	four	tetrameter
quad	four	quadruplets
penta	five	pentagon
quint	five	quintet
sex	six	sexagenarian
hex	six	hexagon
sept	seven	septuple
oct	eight	octopus
nov	nine	novena
dec	ten	decade
cent	hundred	percent
hect	hundred	hectogram
mil	thousand	millimeter
kil	thousand	kilometer
semi	half	semicircle
hemi	half	hemisphere
demi	half	demitasse