



# Haji Muhammad Mohsin Government High School (Since 1874)

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Class 9-10

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## Prefix Suffix

### Prefix, Root Word, and Suffix

A **prefix** is a word part with a specific meaning at the beginning of a word.

A **suffix** is a word part with a specific meaning at the end of a word.

A **root word** is the main part of a word that contains its core meaning. Sometimes it is a word on its own, as in *unbelievable* (*believe* is the root word), and sometimes it cannot stand alone, as in *relocation* (*loc* is the root word). In either case, prefixes and suffixes can be added to root words, which might change either the meaning of the word (*reactivate*, *deactivate*) or its grammatical function (*transports* = present tense, *transported* = past tense, *transportation* = noun). Sometimes spelling changes when suffixes are added to root words (*noise*, *noisy*).

Learning **root words**, **prefixes**, and **suffixes** can help you because:

- If you recognize these word parts, it is easier to figure out what a word you don't know means.
- They can help you to spell words because you'll remember patterns.

Some words are just root words, meaning they don't have a prefix or suffix. Some words have a root word and just a prefix or just a suffix. Let's explore parts of a words some more.

**Example:** *Change* is a root word. By adding the prefix '*un*' and the suffix '*able*' you create a new word with a new meaning, *unchangeable*.

un	+	change	+	able	=	unchangeable
↑		↑		↑		↑
prefix		root word		suffix		new word

So, what does this new word mean? The prefix and suffix bring a new meaning to the root word. So, we need to figure out the meaning of the prefix and suffix to find the meaning of the new word.

The **prefix '*un*'** means '*not*'

The **root word '*change*'** means '*to alter*' or '*to make different*'

The **suffix '*able*'** means '*can do*'

So, ***unchangeable*** means '*not able to be altered or made different*'



Here is a list of commonly used prefixes:

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Meaning of Example
<b>an–</b>	without	anarchy	without government
<b>anti–</b>	against	antibacterial	against bacteria
<b>bene–</b>	well, good	benefit	a good thing for someone
<b>bi–</b>	two	bicycle	vehicle with two wheels
<b>bio–</b>	life	biology	the study of living things
<b>co–</b>	with, together	cooperate	work together
<b>dis–</b>	not	disrespect	not respect
<b>ex–</b>	out	exit	the way to go out
<b>geo–</b>	earth	geology	the study of the earth
<b>hyper–</b>	over	hypertension	being overly tense
<b>im–</b>	not	impossible	not possible
<b>in–</b>	not	incomplete	not complete
<b>inter–</b>	between	interstate	between states
<b>micro–</b>	small	microbiology	the study of tiny living things
<b>mid–</b>	middle	midway	middle of the way, half way
<b>mono–</b>	one	monorail	a train that runs on one track
<b>post–</b>	after	post-test	a test taken after the unit
<b>pre–</b>	before	pre-test	a test taken before the unit
<b>re–</b>	do again	repeat	to do something again
<b>trans–</b>	across	transatlantic	across the Atlantic Ocean
<b>un–</b>	not	unhappy	not happy



Here is a list of commonly used suffixes:

Suffix	Meaning	Example	Meaning of Example
<b>-able</b>	can do (something)	portable	able to be carried
<b>-ible</b>	can do (something)	edible	able to be eaten
<b>-ed</b>	has happened, past tense	walked	the walk has already happened
<b>-er</b>	a person who does an action	teacher	one who teaches
<b>-ful</b>	full of	hopeful	full of hope
<b>-fy</b>	to make	magnify	to make bigger
<b>-ing</b>	is happening, present tense	talking	there is talk happening
<b>-ist</b>	person who does an action or believes in a certain idea of religion	artist	person who works with art
<b>-ize</b>	to make	victimize	make someone a victim; harm someone
<b>-less</b>	not having	hopeless	having no hope
<b>-ment</b>	the action of	amendment	the action of changing
<b>-ness</b>	condition of	brightness	how much light there is
<b>-ology</b>	the study of	zoology	study of animals
<b>-ous</b>	full of, having	joyous	having much joy
<b>-tion</b>	action, process of	creation	the act of making



### Challenge 1

Put the correct prefix at the beginning of the word to change the meaning of the word. Draw a line from the new word to the new meaning.

dis	in	inter	re
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- a) \_\_\_\_\_ city to cease to be visible, to vanish  
b) \_\_\_\_\_ audible not loud enough to be heard  
c) \_\_\_\_\_ appear to do again  
d) \_\_\_\_\_ take a fast rail service between towns

### Challenge 2

Put the correct prefix in front of the word to change the meaning of the sentence.

- a) He was \_\_\_\_\_ known to the police.  
b) They were known to always \_\_\_\_\_ behave.  
c) The dogs \_\_\_\_\_ patiently waited for their dinner.  
d) At times her writing was \_\_\_\_\_ legible.



### Challenge 3

unlock	semi-retired	refurnished	relearn
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- a) I need to \_\_\_\_\_ the information if I am to pass the test at my second attempt.  
b) The thieves stole all the furniture and they had to \_\_\_\_\_ the house.  
c) I had to \_\_\_\_\_ the door to let myself into the house.  
d) My Gran is \_\_\_\_\_ which means she sometimes works and sometimes has a lot of free time.

### Challenge 4

Insert prefixes in the passage so that it makes sense. Use each prefix only once.

mis	re	no	un	In
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The boy walked along the dusty, \_\_\_\_\_ (a) pleasant road. He was looking for somewhere to hide. He wanted to be \_\_\_\_\_ (b) visible to those following him. He arrived at a shallow ford. The water trickled over stones and along to a waterfall. The boy thought he would \_\_\_\_\_ (c) lead his followers. He left tracks on the other side of the ford and \_\_\_\_\_ (d) traced his steps. He hid behind the waterfall. The people trying to find him crossed the ford and were soon \_\_\_\_\_ (e) where to be seen.



### Challenge 5

Underline the suffix at the end of the word and draw a line to match it to the correct meaning.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| a) dragged      | i) like a sister                                     |
| b) transferring | ii) a person whose occupation is teaching others     |
| c) sisterly     | iii) at ease, relaxing                               |
| d) comfortable  | iv) pulled   |
| e) teacher      | v) moving person or things from one place to another |

### Challenge 6

*Instructions:* As you read this paragraph, underline all words that have prefixes or suffixes. Write them below the paragraph and then try to write a definition of the word. If needed, use dictionary.

#### The Garbage Problem

Improper garbage disposal can cause contamination of subterranean water sources. Relocating garbage dumps doesn't necessarily solve this incredibly unhealthful problem. Laws preceding the discovery of this problem were predictably relaxed in terms of garbage disposal. Since the discovery, authorities have proceeded to toughen these laws and have injected funds into reevaluating ongoing practices. Interjection of environmental organizations has helped to convince an incredulous public of the depth of the problem and the need to recycle. Some garbage dumps have receded in size, but most have increased as the unbelievable amount of garbage produced continues to multiply unnecessarily.

Words with prefixes or suffixes	Meaning
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