

# Prefixes and Suffixes

Knowing the meanings of common prefixes and suffixes (referred to as affixes) can help students determine the meanings of unknown words. Below are frequent prefixes and suffixes, their meanings, and example words. Adapted from: Honig, B., Diamond, L., & Gutlohn, L. (2018). CORE Teaching Reading Sourcebook, Third Edition. Novato, CA: Arena Press.

## Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example
un-	not	unkind
re-	again, back	redo, return
in-, im-, il-, ir-	not	injustice, impossible
dis-	not, opposite of	disagree
en-, em-	cause to	encode, empower
non-	not	nonfiction
in-, im-	in, on	inspect, imprint
over-	too much	overpay
mis-	wrong	misjudge
sub-	under	sublease
pre-	before	preview
inter-	between	interact
fore-	before	forewarn
de-	not, opposite	deactivate
trans-	across	transplant
super-	above	superstar
semi-	half	semicircle
anti-	against	antigravity
mid-	middle	midstream
under-	below	underground

# Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-s, -es	more than one	books, boxes
-ed	past-tense verbs	played
-ing	verb form/present participle	running
-ly	characteristic of	quickly
-er, -or	one who	teacher, actor
-ion, -tion, -ation, -ition	act, process	collection, infusion
-able, -ible	can be done	comfortable
-al, -ial	having characteristics of	personal
-y	characterized by	jumpy
-ness	state of, condition of	kindness
-ity, -ty	state of	formality
-ment	action or process	enjoyment
-ic	having characteristics of	linguistic
-ous, -eous, -ious	possessing the qualities of	joyous
-en	made of	wooden
-er	comparative	higher
-ive, -ative, -itive	adjective form of a noun	active
-ful	full of	thoughtful
-less	without	fearless
-est	comparative (most when comparing)	longest