

Prefixes and Suffixes

Fifteen common prefixes constitute the majority of prefixes used in writing for elementary school children. It is important that they be taught meaningfully to boys and girls in the fifth and sixth grades. Boys and girls need to learn that just because these letters appear at the beginning of a word is not a definite indication that they represent a prefix. Learning the meanings and selecting examples is a suitable exercise for sixth graders who perform at grade level. In the list below, the commonest meaning of the prefix and examples are given:

<u>PREFIX</u>	<u>MEANING</u>	<u>EXAMPLES</u>
ab	from	abnormal
ad	to	admit, adhere
be	by	bedecked
com	with, together	compact, commiserate
de	from	deduct, depose
dis	apart	disappear, disengage
en	in	enjoy
ex	out	exhale, export
in	in	inhabit, inhibit
in	not	incorrect, inadequate
pre	before	preview, prediction
pro	for, forward	propel, pronoun
re	back	renovate, reconsider
sub	under	submarine, subjugate
un	not	unhappy, uncommon

Some of the commonest suffixes with their meanings are given below:

<u>SUFFIX</u>	<u>MEANING</u>	<u>EXAMPLES</u>
able	tells what kind	suitable
al	having to do with something	magical, national
ance	act, process, or fact of being, quality, state of	disappearance
ant	having the quality, manner, or condition of a person thing. For many uses this is the “one who” suffix e.g. discussant-one who discusses.	assistant, observant
ary	belonging to, or connected with	legendary, momentary
en	(may mean) made of	wooden
ful	full of or characterized by	sorrowful, healthful
hood	a state of being	manhood, falsehood
ion	the act of	expression, perfection
less	unable, without	needless, regardless
ly	in what way or manner	gladly