

Word Parts: Base Words, Prefixes, Suffixes, and Roots

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

base word: complete word that can stand alone

root: word part that contains the core meaning of a word

prefix: word part added to the beginning of a root or base word

suffix: word part added to the end of a root or base word

HERE'S HOW

Step 1: Distinguish between a base word and a root. Remember that a base word is meaningful alone while a root needs prefixes or suffixes to make sense.

EXAMPLE Base Word: *sense* Root: *-ject-*

Step 2: Add word parts to a base word or root to create a new word.

EXAMPLE

Prefix		Root / Base		Suffix		New Word
<i>non-</i>	+	<i>sense</i>			=	nonsense
		<i>sense</i>	+	<i>-less</i>	=	senseless
<i>pro-</i>		<i>-ject-</i>	+	<i>-or</i>	=	projector
<i>inter-</i>	+	<i>-ject-</i>	+	<i>-ion</i>	=	interjection

Step 3: Expand your vocabulary by learning prefixes and suffixes. Notice that suffixes often determine a word's part of speech.

Prefix	Meaning	Base / Root	New Word
<i>co-, con-, com-</i>	with	<i>operate</i>	<i>cooperate</i>
<i>de-, dis-</i>	opposite of	<i>approve</i>	<i>disapprove</i>
<i>il-, im-, in-, ir-</i>	in; not	<i>doors; legal</i>	<i>indoors; illegal</i>
<i>inter-</i>	between	<i>office</i>	<i>interoffice</i>
<i>non-</i>	not	<i>believer</i>	<i>nonbeliever</i>
<i>pre-</i>	before	<i>natal</i>	<i>prenatal</i>
<i>pro-, re-</i>	forward; back	<i>-ject-</i>	<i>project; reject</i>
<i>re-</i>	again	<i>new</i>	<i>renew</i>
<i>sub-</i>	under	<i>standard</i>	<i>substandard</i>

STUDENT LESSON SUMMARY, CONTINUED

Prefix	Meaning	Base / Root	New Word
<i>super-</i>	above	<i>-vis-</i>	<i>supervise</i>
<i>trans-</i>	across	<i>-port-</i>	<i>transport</i>
Suffix	Meaning	Base / Root	New Word
<i>-able, -ible</i>	capable of, fit for	<i>read</i>	<i>readable</i>
<i>-al, -ial</i>	of, related to	<i>profession</i>	<i>professional</i>
<i>-ary, -ry, -y</i>	characterized by	<i>health</i>	<i>healthy</i>
<i>-er, -or</i>	someone or thing who does	<i>teach, compute</i>	<i>teacher, computer</i>
<i>-ion, -tion, -ation</i>	act of	<i>intent</i>	<i>intention</i>
<i>-less</i>	without	<i>care</i>	<i>careless</i>