



# SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

(An Autonomous Institution)

COIMBATORE-35

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



## PREFIX AND SUFFIX

In English, **prefixes** and **suffixes** are types of affixes, which are added to a root word to change its meaning or function.

### Prefix:

A **prefix** is a group of letters added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning.

### Examples:

- **Un-**: unhappy (not happy)
- **Re-**: rewrite (to write again)
- **Pre-**: preview (to view beforehand)
- **Dis-**: disconnect (to break the connection)
- **Mis-**: misunderstand (to interpret incorrectly)

### Suffix:

A **suffix** is a group of letters added to the end of a word to change its meaning, tense, or grammatical function.

### Examples:

- **-ing**: running (action or process)
- **-ed**: walked (past tense)
- **-ly**: quickly (turns an adjective into an adverb)
- **-ness**: happiness (turns an adjective into a noun)
- **-ful**: beautiful (having qualities of)

Together, prefixes and suffixes help form new words and express different meanings.

Adding prefixes and suffixes to base words (also called root words) can help change their **parts of speech**, making them function differently in a sentence. Here's how you can form different parts of speech by adding prefixes and suffixes:

### 1. Nouns:

Suffixes are often added to adjectives or verbs to create nouns.

- **From Adjectives:**
  - **-ness**: happiness (from "happy")
  - **-ity**: reality (from "real")
  - **-ment**: excitement (from "excite")
  - **-ship**: friendship (from "friend")
  - **-hood**: childhood (from "child")

- **From Verbs:**

- **-tion:** creation (from "create")
- **-ance:** acceptance (from "accept")
- **-er:** teacher (from "teach")
- **-or:** actor (from "act")

## 2. Adjectives:

Suffixes can turn nouns or verbs into adjectives that describe qualities or characteristics.

- **From Nouns:**

- **-ful:** joyful (from "joy")
- **-less:** hopeless (from "hope")
- **-ic:** heroic (from "hero")
- **-al:** musical (from "music")
- **-y:** snowy (from "snow")

- **From Verbs:**

- **-able:** readable (from "read")
- **-ive:** creative (from "create")
- **-ous:** dangerous (from "danger")

## 3. Verbs:

Suffixes can change nouns or adjectives into verbs, usually indicating an action or process.

- **From Nouns:**

- **-ize:** realize (from "real")
- **-ate:** activate (from "active")
- **-en:** lengthen (from "length")

- **From Adjectives:**

- **-ify:** beautify (from "beautiful")
- **-en:** deepen (from "deep")

## 4. Adverbs:

Suffixes can turn adjectives into adverbs, typically describing how something is done.

- **From Adjectives:**

- **-ly:** quickly (from "quick")
- **-ward:** backward (from "back")
- **-wise:** likewise (from "like")
- **-ally:** naturally (from "natural")

## 5. Changing Meaning Using Prefixes:

While prefixes generally don't change the part of speech, they alter the meaning of the word.

- **Verbs:**

- **Un-:** undo (to reverse an action)
- **Re-:** redo (to do again)
- **Dis-:** disconnect (to separate or reverse)

- **Adjectives:**

- **Im-**: impossible (not possible)
- **In-**: incomplete (not complete)
- **Pre-**: prehistoric (before history)

### Examples of How Parts of Speech Change:

#### 1. Verb to Noun:

- "Create" (verb) → **Creation** (noun)
- "Teach" (verb) → **Teacher** (noun)

#### 2. Noun to Adjective:

- "Joy" (noun) → **Joyful** (adjective)
- "Danger" (noun) → **Dangerous** (adjective)

#### 3. Adjective to Adverb:

- "Quick" (adjective) → **Quickly** (adverb)
- "Beautiful" (adjective) → **Beautifully** (adverb)

By adding prefixes and suffixes, you can transform a word into various parts of speech, enriching its meaning and function in a sentence.

### EXERCISE

#### 1 ) Fill in the blanks with the correct prefix:

1. I can't believe how \_\_\_\_\_ (possible) it is to complete this task in just one day!
2. After the storm, the power went out, and it took hours to \_\_\_\_\_ (connect) the system again.
3. Sarah is so \_\_\_\_\_ (agree), she always agrees with everything we say.
4. The movie was so \_\_\_\_\_ (act), it made me feel like I was part of the action!
5. This project is taking too long; we need to \_\_\_\_\_ (do) it again tomorrow to finish on time.

#### 2 ) Fill in the blanks with the correct suffix:

1. She gave a \_\_\_\_\_ (quick) response to the question, which impressed everyone.
2. The professor was very \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) and helped all of his students succeed.
3. I felt a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ (happy) when I saw my friends after so long.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ (danger) of hiking in this weather is too great for us to take a risk.
5. He did his work \_\_\_\_\_ (care), making sure everything was perfect.

### ANSWERS

#### Prefix

1. impossible
2. reconnect
3. agreeable
4. interactive
5. redo

#### Suffix

1. quick
2. teaching
3. happiness
4. danger
5. carefully