



# SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

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## PREFIX AND SUFFIX

Prefixes and suffixes are types of affixes that attach to a base word or root word to change its meaning or grammatical function. They are essential components of word formation in the English language, and understanding them can help in vocabulary development, spelling, and comprehension.

### Prefix

A prefix is a group of letters placed before the root of a word. When a prefix is added, it changes the meaning of the word but typically doesn't change its grammatical category (e.g., from noun to verb). The prefix helps to create a new word with a different meaning while retaining the base word's original sense.

Characteristics of Prefixes:

- **Position:** Always at the beginning of the word.
- **Function:** Alters the meaning but usually keeps the same word class.
- **Common Usage:** They often convey negation, time, location, degree, number, or manner.

Examples of Common Prefixes:

1. **Un-:** Denotes the opposite or reversal.

Un + happy = unhappy (not happy)

Un + do = undo (reverse the action of doing)

2. **Re-:** Means again or back.

Re + write = rewrite (to write again)

Re + play = replay (to play again)

3. Pre-: Refers to before.

Pre + view = preview (to view before)

Pre + school = preschool (before school)

4. Dis-: Expresses negation or reversal.

Dis + agree = disagree (not agree)

Dis + appear = disappear (to vanish)

5. Sub-: Refers to under or below.

Sub + marine = submarine (underwater vessel)

Sub + title = subtitle (text below the main text)

6. Mis-: Indicates wrong or incorrect.

Mis + lead = mislead (to guide wrongly)

Mis + spell = misspell (to spell incorrectly)

#### Types of Prefixes:

- Negative Prefixes: Examples include "un-", "in-", "dis-", "non-" (e.g., unkind, incomplete).
- Directional Prefixes: Examples include "pre-", "pro-", "post-" (e.g., prehistoric, postpone).
- Degree or Size Prefixes: Examples include "super-", "mini-", "hyper-" (e.g., supermarket, hyperactive).

## Suffix

A suffix is a group of letters placed at the end of a word. Suffixes typically change the form of the word, often altering its grammatical role (e.g., turning a noun into an adjective, a verb into a noun, or modifying tense). Suffixes can also add additional meanings, such as denoting a profession, action, or characteristic.

### Characteristics of Suffixes:

- **Position:** Always at the end of the word.
- **Function:** Alters the grammatical function, word form, or tense.
- **Common Usage:** They are often used to indicate verb tense, plurality, comparison, or part of speech (e.g., noun, adjective, adverb).

### Examples of Common Suffixes:

1. **-ness:** Turns an adjective into a noun.

Happy + -ness = happiness (the state of being happy)

Kind + -ness = kindness (the state of being kind)

2. **-ly:** Turns an adjective into an adverb.

Quick + -ly = quickly (in a quick manner)

Beautiful + -ly = beautifully (in a beautiful way)

3. **-ment:** Turns a verb into a noun.

Develop + -ment = development (the process of developing)

Achieve + -ment = achievement (the act of achieving)

4. **-ful:** Turns a noun into an adjective, meaning “full of.”

Hope + -ful = hopeful (full of hope)

Care + -ful = careful (full of care)

5. -ed: Marks the past tense of a verb.

Walk + -ed = walked (past form of walk)

Laugh + -ed = laughed (past form of laugh)

6. -ing: Indicates the present participle of a verb or an adjective.

Run + -ing = running (present participle of run)

Excite + -ing = exciting (causing excitement)

7. -er or -or: Indicates a person who performs an action.

Teach + -er = teacher (a person who teaches)

Direct + -or = director (a person who directs)

Types of Suffixes:

- Noun Suffixes: Form nouns from other words, such as "-ness," "-ment," "-tion" (e.g., happiness, development, celebration).
- Adjective Suffixes: Form adjectives from other words, such as "-able," "-ful," "-less" (e.g., comfortable, useful, harmless).
- Verb Suffixes: Form verbs from other words, such as "-ize," "-en," "-ify" (e.g., modernize, darken, simplify).
- Adverb Suffixes: Form adverbs from adjectives, typically "-ly" (e.g., quickly, slowly).

Key Differences Between Prefixes and Suffixes:

- Position: Prefixes are placed at the beginning, while suffixes are placed at the end of a word.
- Function: Prefixes generally modify the meaning of a word, while suffixes usually change the grammatical form of a word (e.g., noun to adjective or verb to noun).
- Effect on Word Class: Prefixes rarely change the word's class (e.g., noun, verb), but suffixes frequently do.

#### Importance of Prefixes and Suffixes:

- Expand Vocabulary: By understanding common prefixes and suffixes, you can deduce the meanings of new words.
- Improve Spelling and Grammar: Suffixes, in particular, help with forming correct verb tenses, plural forms, and adjective comparisons.
- Ease of Comprehension: They provide clues to the meaning and function of unfamiliar words in context.

In sum, prefixes and suffixes are powerful tools in word formation and can significantly impact both the meaning and grammatical usage of words. Understanding these affixes helps with language fluency, word comprehension, and overall communication skills.

#### Exercise

- I) Complete each sentence by choosing the correct word with a prefix. The base word is provided in parentheses.

1. The movie was so long that we had to take a break to it. (view)
2. Jane was very with her exam results because she studied hard. (happy)
3. The athlete will for the competition next week. (train)
4. After reading the letter, I decided to my initial opinion. (consider)
5. The machine was broken, so they had to it. (build)

Answers

1. Preview
2. Unhappy
3. Retrain
4. Reconsider
5. Rebuild

II) Complete each sentence by choosing the correct word with a suffix. The base word is provided in parentheses.

1. The project is in the final stage of. (develop)
2. The of the forest during the storm was terrifying. (dark)
3. She ran to catch the bus. (quick)
4. John was very when he heard the good news. (joy)
5. The magician's tricks left the audience. (wonder)

## Answers

1. Development
2. Darkness
3. Quickly
4. Joyful
5. Wonderful