



WORD FORMATION - PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

What Is a Prefix and a Suffix? – Meaning and Definition

A prefix is a short morphological unit that is added to the beginning of a root word in order to alter its meaning and/or function. It can be just a single letter or two to five letters. The Oxford Learner’s Dictionary defines a prefix as “a letter or group of letters added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning, such as *un-* in *unhappy* and *pre-* in *preheat*”.

A suffix, on the other hand, is a short morphological unit that follows the root word. In other words, it is added to the end of the root word. A suffix can contain two to four letters. It is defined as “a letter or group of letters added to the end of a word to make another word, such as *-ly* in *quickly* or *-ness* in *sadness*”, according to the Oxford Learner’s Dictionary.

I. Use a prefix to find the opposite of these verbs:

1- wrap	
2- use	
3- agree	
4- engage	
5- behave	
6- understand	
7- fold	
8- spell	
9- connect	
10- close	

II. Put the words in brackets in the appropriate form (use prefixes or suffixes):

1. He was acting in a very _____ way. (child)
2. She looked _____. She started to cry. (happy)
3. He passed his exam. He was _____ for the second time. (succeed)



4. The team that he supported was able to win the _____. (champion)
5. I couldn't find any _____ in his theory. (weak)
6. He wants to be a _____ when he grows up. (mathematics)
7. There were only a _____ of people at the match. (hand)
8. The road was too narrow, so they had to _____ it. (wide)
9. I think that you should _____ your decision. It may not be the best thing to do. (consider)
10. You need a _____ of motivation, organization and hard work to realize your dreams.(combine)

III. Add suitable prefix for

1. Danger
2. Circle
3. Relevant
4. Marine
5. Advantage

IV. Find the root or base word for the following

1. Preheat
2. Loving
3. Admission
4. Relaxation
5. Explosion

ANSWER

I. Use a prefix to find the opposite of these verbs:

1- wrap	unwrap ✓
2- use	misuse ✓
3- agree	disagree ✓
4- engage	disengage ✓
5- behave	misbehave ✓
6- understand	misunderstand ✓
7- fold	unfold ✓



8- spell	misunderstand ✓
9- connect	disconnect ✓
10- close	disclose ✓

II. Put the words in brackets in the appropriate form (use prefixes or suffixes):

1. He was acting in a very **childish** ✓ way. (child)
2. She looked **unhappy** ✓ .She started to cry. (happy)
3. He passed his exam. He was **successful** ✓ for the second time. (succeed)
4. The team that he supported was able to win the **championship** ✓ .
(champion)
5. I couldn't find any **weakness** ✓ in his theory. (weak)
6. He wants to be a **mathematician** ✓ when he grows up. (mathematics)
7. There were only a **handful** ✓ of people at the match. (hand)
8. The road was too narrow, so they had to **widen** ✓ it. (wide)
9. I think that you should **reconsider** ✓ your decision. It may not be the best thing to do. (consider)
10. You need a **combination** ✓ of motivation, organization and hard work to realize your dreams.(combine)

III. Add suitable prefix for

1. Endanger
2. Semicircle
3. Irrelevant
4. Submarine
5. Disadvantage

IV. Find the root or base word for the following

1. heat
2. Love
3. Admit
4. Relax
5. Explode



I) Put the words in brackets in the appropriate form (use a prefixes or suffixes):

1. He was sitting _____ in his seat on the train. (comfort)
2. There was a _____ light coming from the window. (green)
3. He was acting in a very _____ way. (child)
4. This word is very difficult to spell, and even worse, it's _____.
(pronounce)
5. He's lost his book again. I don't know where he has _____ it this time.
(place)
6. You shouldn't have done that! It was very _____ of you. (think)
7. He didn't pass his exam. He was _____ for the second time. (succeed)
8. Some of the shanty towns are dreadfully _____. (crowd)
9. The team that he supported were able to win the _____. (champion)
10. There is a very high _____ that they will be late. (likely)

II) Use a prefixes to find the opposite of these verbs:

1- wrap	
2- use	
3- agree	
4- engage	
5- behave	
6- understand	
7- fold	



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8- spell	
9- connect	
10- close	