# Ten Common Prefixes

Prefixes are groups of letters added to the beginning of a word that change or modify its meaning. This worksheet looks at the following ten common prefixes: *mid-, mis-, multi-, non-, over-, pre-, super-, re-, un-, under-*.

**A. Underline the prefixes in the words below.**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. underpaid | 2. supermodel | 3. rewrite | 4. undo | 5. misunderstood |
| 6. midday | 7. multicoloured | 8. prehistoric | 9. nonsmoking | 10. overcook |

**B. Complete the sentences with the words above.**

1. A big ..... flag waved above the building.
2. None of the employees were happy as they felt they were .....
3. Make sure you don't ..... it. Nobody likes burnt chicken.
4. You have probably seen her in magazines. She is a famous .....
5. Fish evolved from ..... sea creatures.
6. I think you ..... my instructions. I told you not to do question 3.
7. This is a ..... area. You can't smoke here.
8. The sun is usually at its hottest around .....
9. I had tied my shoe laces up so tightly that I couldn't ..... them.
10. I had to ..... my essay as I had made a lot of mistakes.

**C. Write the prefixes from Exercise A next to their definitions below.**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Too much. | ..... | 6. Many. | ..... |
| 2. Again. | ..... | 7. Before. | ..... |
| 3. Over, greater. | ..... | 8. Incorrect. | ..... |
| 4. Not enough. | ..... | 9. Not, without. | ..... |
| 5. In the middle. | ..... | 10. Reverse, not. | ..... |

**D. Circle the prefix that best completes each sentence.**

1. We always *recycle* / *precycle* our bottles.
2. Everyone else was wearing jeans. I felt *overdressed* / *underdressed* in my suit.
3. Superman and Spiderman are popular *multiheroes* / *superheroes*.
4. I'm sorry. I don't understand. I think I *misheard* / *overheard* what you said.

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**E. Add appropriate prefixes to the words in the sentences.**

1. Our flight was delayed, so we didn't land until .....night.

2. I .....read the instructions as I hadn't understood them the first time.

3. We had to .....line all the prefixes in Exercise A.

4. His parents are .....protective. They don't let him go anywhere alone.

5. It's a .....level car park. It has six floors.

6. They have just built a new .....store near the motorway. It's absolutely enormous!

7. The children had been .....behaving all day and were sent to bed early.

8. That is absolute .....sense! Who told you that?

9. The potatoes had been .....cooked, so we just had to heat them up.

10. When we arrived at the hotel, we .....packed our suitcases and put our clothes away.

**F. Complete the sentences with the words from the box along with a suitable prefix.**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| slept | weight | built | pronounced | fiction | view |

1. The actors and their families were invited to see a ..... of the film.

2. Doctors were concerned about the tiny baby as it was extremely .....

3. Her name is very unusual, so it is often .....

4. I prefer reading ..... books. I don't really enjoy stories.

5. I was late for school because I had .....

6. The church was destroyed in a fire but was ..... several years later.

**G. Complete the conversation questions by adding prefixes. Then, ask and answer the questions with a partner.**

1. What are two English words that you often .....spell?

2. What are two items that you would never .....use?

3. What are two things you would buy if you were a .....millionaire?

4. What are two .....powers that you would like to have?

5. What are two annoying expressions that people often .....use?

6. What are two things you would miss eating if you were on a .....fat diet?

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