



# AFFIXES

Global Bilingual Academy  
Grade 8



LIVEWORKSHEETS

## Affixes

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- Affix Is a group of letters or sounds added to the beginning of a word ( Prefix) or to the end ( Suffix) to change its meaning or use.

### For example:

#### - Prefix:

un + tie = untie

mis + understand = misunderstand

#### - Suffix:

kind + ness = kindness

quick + ly = quickly

## Prefixes

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- is a group of letters that comes before a root word and changes the meaning of the word.

Examples:

**semi** + circle = semicircle

**dis** + like = dislike

**under** + take = undertake

**un** + stable = unstable

## MORE EXAMPLES OF PREFIXES

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| Prefix                          | Meaning                | Examples   |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Dis- in- im- il-<br>ir- un- non | Not, the opposite of   | Disconnected – inactive- immature- illogical- irregular – unkind- imperfect – nonsense |
| ex                              | Previous               | Ex-student – ex-teacher  |
| mis                             | Done incorrectly       | Mistake – misuse   |
| re                              | Do over again, go back | Redo– replace- reread  |
| inter                           | Between                | Interact– international  |
| Semi                            | half                   | Semicircle – semiprivate   |
| under                           | Below                  | Underground– underwater  |

**Im + possible = impossible**

**im + practical = impractical**

**ex + port = export**

**un + wise = unwise**

**un + clear = unclear**

**ad + mit = admit**

**dis + regard = disregard**

**il + literate = illiterate**

**mis + treat = mistreat**

**dis + honest = dishonest**

**il + legal = illegal**

**im + patient = impatient**

**dis + obey + disobey**

**ir + responsible = irresponsible**

**un + friendly = unfriendly**

**in + experience = inexperience**

**un + faithful = unfaithful**

**im + mature = immature**

**in + sensitive = insensitive**

**un + able = unable**

**non + violent = nonviolent**

**im + proper = improper**

**in + decisive**

**un + realistic = unrealistic**

**in + competent = incompetent**

**dis + advantage = disadvantages**

**ir + regular = irregular**

**im + perfect = imperfect**

**un + usual = unusual**

**un + spoilt = unspoilt**

**un + reasonable = unreasonable**

## RULES

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1. The prefix ‘**im**’ usually comes before words beginning with the letters ‘**b**’, ‘**m**’ and ‘**p**’ - *imbalance, immodest, imperfect*
2. The prefix ‘**il**’ is only used before a word beginning with the letter ‘**I**’ - *illegal, illogical*
3. The prefix ‘**ir**’ is only used before a word beginning with the letter ‘**r**’ - *irrational, irresponsible*. However, other prefixes can sometimes be used before words beginning with the letters ‘**I**’ and ‘**r**’ depending on the words - *disloyal, unreasonable*.

## Suffixes

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- suffix is a syllable or a word joined onto the end of a word to change its meaning and grammatical function

### Examples:

sad + **ness** = sadness

excite + **ment** = excitement

friend + **ly** = friendly

sleep + **less** = sleepless

## MORE EXAMPLES OF SUFFIXES

| Suffix   | Meaning                     | Examples   |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>-or/ -er</b>  | <b>Person</b>               | <b>Actor – teenager – teacher – investor</b>   |
| <b>-let</b>  | <b>Small</b>                | <b>Booklet</b>   |
| <b>-ess</b>  | <b>female</b>               | <b>Actress – waitress</b>  |
| <b>-ful</b>  | <b>Being full of</b>        | <b>Beautiful – wasteful</b>  |
| <b>-hood/ -ship/ -dom</b>                                | <b>Condition- status</b>    | <b>Childhood, freedom, friendship</b>  |
| <b>-tion / -sion</b>                                     | <b>State, action, group</b> | <b>Generation, persuasion</b>  |
| <b>-ness / -ity</b>                                      | <b>Having a quality</b>     | <b>Sadness, continuity</b>   |
| <b>-less</b>   | <b>Being empty of</b>       | <b>Sleepless, homeless</b>   |
| <b>-ly/ -al/ -ish/ -ive/ -ous / -able / -ible/ -like</b> | <b>Having qualities of</b>  | <b>Friendly, global, bookish, talkative, precious, readable, credible, ladylike,</b> |

## RULES

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1. Most words ending in 'e' drop the 'e' when adding a suffix that begins with a vowel - race /racing, lease/leased, receive/receiver
2. Words ending in 'ce' or 'ge' usually keep the 'e' when adding a suffix that begins with an 'a' or an 'o' - courage/ courageous, trace/traceable
3. Most words ending in 'e' keep the 'e' when adding a suffix that begins with a consonant - manage/management, ease/easement

**4. Most words ending in Y following a consonant change the 'y' to 'I' when adding a suffix that does not begin with I -  
try/tried, bounty/bountiful**

**5. One-syllable words ending in a single consonant following a single vowel double the consonant before adding the suffixes **ed, er or ing****