TOEFL VOCABULARY

PREDICTING MEANING USING PREFIXES

PREFIXES

A prefix is a part of a word that is attached before the word root and changes the meaning of the word.

Prefix	Meaning	Word
Im-	not	possible

New word : impossible
New meaning: not possible



LIVEWORKSHEETS

LEARN THE MOST COMMON PREFIXES IN ENGLISH

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Use the following list of prefixes in English to become familiar with each prefix,its area of meaning,and some example words.

		Column A Example word	Column B Example word of your own
Prefixes for negation			
a–	not	amoral	
dis–	not	disassociate	
il–	not	illiterate	illegal
im–	not	impossible	
in–	not	inactive	indecisive
ir–	not	irrational	
mis–	wrong	misgiving	
non–	not	nonexistent	
un–	not	unintentional	unimportant
Prefixes for number and size			
demi–	half	demitasse	
hemi–	half	hemisphere	
semi–	half	semicircle	
mon–, *mono–*	one	monologue	
uni–	one	unification	
proto–	first	prototypical	



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olig–	few	oligarchy	
poly–	many	polygamy	
bi–, bin–	two	bilingual	
tri–	three	trimester	
dec–, deci–	ten	decade	
cent–, hect–	hundred	centennial	
myria–	ten thousand	myriameter	

Prefixes for very small

micro–	small	microscope	
milli–	thousandth	milligram	

Prefixes for very large

macro–	large	macroeconomics	
mega–	large	megalomania	
magni–	great	magnificent	

Prefixes for time

ante–	before	antebellum	
pre–	before	preindustrial	
pro–	before	progeny	
re–	again	regain	
after–	after	aftertaste	afterthought
epi–	after	epilogue	epitaph
post–	after	postgraduate	postpone

Prefixes for where

ac–	to, toward	accrue	
ad–	to, toward	addiction	
af–	to, toward	affirm	
ag–	to, toward	aggressive	
an–	to, toward	annotate	
by–	near	bystander	



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em–, en–	in	envelope	_____
im–	into	immerse	_____
intra–	within	intramural	_____
intro–	inside	introspection	_____
enter–	among	entertain	_____
inter–	among	interstate	_____
epi–	upon	epidermis	_____
e–	out, away	emigrate	_____
ex–	out	exit	_____
extra–	outside	extraterrestrial	_____
de–	from, down	demerit	_____
off–	from	offspring	_____
mid–	middle	midsummer	_____
on–	on	onshore	_____
para–	beside	paralegal	_____
per–	throughout	pervasive	_____
circu–	around	circumvent	_____
peri–	all around	periphery	_____
trans–	across	transcontinental	_____
dia–	through	diagonal	_____
pro–	forward	proceed	_____
re–	back	retract	_____
retro–	back	retroflex	_____
sub–	under	subzero	_____
under–	below	underachiever	_____
with–	back away	withdraw	_____
super–	over	supervisor	_____
tele–	distant	telecommunications	_____

Prefixes for amount

extra–	excessive	extravagant	_____
hyper–	too much	hyperactive	_____
hypo–	too little	hypoglycemic	_____
omni–	all	omnipresent	_____
out–	surpassing	outdo	_____



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LEARN THE MOST COMMON PREFIXES IN ENGLISH

col–	with	colleague	_____
com–	with	commune	_____
con–	with	connect	_____
co–	together	coordinate	_____
sym–	together	symphony	_____
syn–	together	synthesis	_____

Prefixes that make a judgment

anti–	against	antisocial	_____
contra–	against	contraception	_____
dys–	bad	dysfunction	_____
mal–	bad	maladjusted	_____
mis–	wrong	misfortune	_____
bene–	good	benefactor	_____
eu–	good	euphoria	_____
pro–	for	pro-education	_____

Other prefixes

ambi–	both	ambivalent	_____
amphi–	around	amphitheater	_____
be–	make	befriend	_____
hetero–	different	heterodox	_____
homo–	same	homogeneous	_____
meta–	change	metabolism	_____
neo–	new	neoclassicism	_____

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meta–	change	metabolism	_____
neo–	new	neoclassicism	_____
pseudo–	false	pseudonym	_____



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LIVEWORKSHEETS

READY TO PRACTICE PREFIXES ?



Science and technology

Complete definitions 1-15 with words and expressions from the box. You will not need all of the words and expressions from the box.

analyze control bioclimatology cryogenics biology cybernetics breakthrough

computers geneticist chemistry cellphone cybernetics development digital discovery

discover e-mail experiment information superhighway genetic engineering genetic fingerprinting geneticist information technology (IT) innovation modified

invent invention life expectancy microchip internet

molecular biology scientist nuclear engineering technocrat technologist physics research technophile safeguard technophobe

1-_____is the practice or science of changing the genes of a living thing, especially in order to make it more suitable for a particular purpose.

2-A _____is a rule, law, or plan that protects people or something from harm or problems.

3-_____is the study of living things.

4-A_____is someone who does not like, trust, or want to use technology, especially computers.

5-A_____is a discovery or achievement that comes after a lot of hard work.

6-_____is the study or use of computers and electronic systems for storing and using information.

7- If something is_____it is changed slightly in order to improve it.

8-A _____is a scientist who studies or works in genetics

9-_____is the use of technology to make copies of natural things (for example, artificial body parts)

10. A _____ is a scientist or other technical expert with a high position in industry or government

11. _____is the detailed study of something in order to discover new facts

12._____ is the science that studies the effects of low temperatures, especially the use of low temperatures for preserving the bodies of dead people.

13. An_____ is a scientific test find what happens to someone or something in particular conditions

14._____ is the length of time that someone is likely to live.

15._____is the invention or use of new ideas, methods, equipment, etc

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