

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



LEARN THE MOST COMMON PREFIXES IN ENGLISH



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			
<i>a-</i>	not	amoral	
<i>dis-</i>	not	disassociate	
<i>il-</i>	not	illiterate	<i>illegal</i>
<i>im-</i>	not	impossible	
<i>in-</i>	not	inactive	<i>indecisive</i>
<i>ir-</i>	not	irrational	
<i>mis-</i>	wrong	misgiving	
<i>non-</i>	not	nonexistent	
<i>un-</i>	not	unintentional	<i>unimportant</i>
Prefixes for number and size			
<i>demi-</i>	half	demitasse	
<i>hemi-</i>	half	hemisphere	
<i>semi-</i>	half	semicircle	
<i>mono-, mono-</i>	one	monologue	
<i>uni-</i>	one	unification	
<i>proto-</i>	first	prototypical	



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<i>olig-</i>	few	oligarchy	_____
<i>poly-</i>	many	polygamy	_____
<i>bi-, bin-</i>	two	bilingual	_____
<i>tri-</i>	three	trimester	_____
<i>dec-, deci-</i>	ten	decade	_____
<i>cent-, hect-</i>	hundred	centennial	_____
<i>myria-</i>	ten thousand	myriameter	_____

Prefixes for very small

<i>micro-</i>	small	microscope	_____
<i>milli-</i>	thousandth	milligram	_____

Prefixes for very large

<i>macro-</i>	large	macroeconomics	_____
<i>mega-</i>	large	megalomania	_____
<i>magni-</i>	great	magnificent	_____

Prefixes for time

<i>ante-</i>	before	antebellum	_____
<i>pre-</i>	before	preindustrial	_____
<i>pro-</i>	before	progeny	_____
<i>re-</i>	again	regain	_____
<i>after-</i>	after	aftertaste	<u>afterthought</u>
<i>epi-</i>	after	epilogue	<u>epitaph</u>
<i>post-</i>	after	postgraduate	<u>postpone</u>

Prefixes for where

<i>ac-</i>	to, toward	accrue	_____
<i>ad-</i>	to, toward	addiction	_____
<i>af-</i>	to, toward	affirm	_____
<i>ag-</i>	to, toward	aggressive	_____
<i>an-</i>	to, toward	annotate	_____
<i>by-</i>	near	bystander	_____



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

Prefixes for amount

<i>extra-</i>	excessive	extravagant	
<i>hyper-</i>	too much	hyperactive	
<i>hypo-</i>	too little	hypoglycemic	
<i>omni-</i>	all	omnipresent	
<i>out-</i>	surpassing	outdo	



LEARN THE MOST COMMON PREFIXES IN ENGLISH

<i>col-</i>	with	colleague	_____
<i>com-</i>	with	commune	_____
<i>con-</i>	with	connect	_____
<i>co-</i>	together	coordinate	_____
<i>sym-</i>	together	symphony	_____
<i>syn-</i>	together	synthesis	_____

Prefixes that make a judgment

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

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Other prefixes

<i>ambi-</i>	both	ambivalent	_____
<i>amphi-</i>	around	amphitheater	_____
<i>be-</i>	make	befriend	_____
<i>hetero-</i>	different	heterodox	_____
<i>homo-</i>	same	homogeneous	_____
<i>meta-</i>	change	metabolism	_____
<i>neo-</i>	new	neoclassicism	_____

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<i>meta-</i>	change	metabolism	_____
<i>neo-</i>	new	neoclassicism	_____
<i>pseudo-</i>	false	pseudonym	_____



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 to 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