

Prefixes and Suffixes

A **prefix** is added at the beginning of a word to change its meaning, like *unhappy* (un- means “not”).

A **suffix** is added at the end to change its form, like *teacher* (-er means “a person who teaches”).

Prefixes	Examples	Suffixes	Examples
A-	Asexual, Apathy	-able	Adorable, Comfortable
Anti-	Antibiotic, Antisocial	-al	Historical, Sensational
Bi-	Bilingual, Bipolar	-ance	Resistance, Importance
Co-	Coexist, Cooperation	-ation	Exploration, Presentation
De-	Deactivate, Defrost	-ed	Fulfilled, Interested
Dis-	Disapprove, Dislike	-er	Teacher, Writer
En-	Encourage, Enlighten	-est	Biggest, Fastest
Ex-	Exhale, Expose	-ful	Beautiful, Careful
Fore-	Foresee, Forefront	-ian	Musician, Magician
Up-	Upgrade, Uphold	-ish	Childish, Foolish
Inter-	Interact, Interfere		

Directions: Identify the correct prefix or suffix in the sentences below

Example: The boy untied his shoes before taking them off.

1. Your happiness should never depend on another person.
2. Sally wrote a very emotional letter to her brother.
3. The girl misunderstood the directions on her test.
4. Samantha upgraded her phone yesterday.
5. The girl turned in her test even though it was incomplete.
6. The lumpy mattress was very uncomfortable.

Read the sentences below. Write the correct form of the word in parentheses

Example: Don't be (fool)!

foolish

7. The teacher (approved) of the child's violent behavior.
8. She had to (activate) the system before she could get in.
9. The lady in the red hat (apply) reapplied her lipstick because it was starting to fade.
10. The boys marveled at the tricks of the (magic).
11. I would very much appreciate your (cooperate).
12. We need the manager's (approve) before we can refund the purchase.