

**TIP 13: Use roots and affixes to guess what a word means.**

So, *pre-* means “before,” and a prefix comes before the root. Makes sense, right? But what about the word “suffix”? What do you think the prefix *suf-* means?

Because a suffix comes after the root, “after” would be a good guess. Actually, the prefix *suf-* is related to the prefix *sub-*. Both *suf-* and *sub-* mean “below,” as in the word *submarine* (which means “below water”).

Both *suf-* and *sub-* can also mean “secondary,” as in *substation*. (A branch of a main post office is called a *substation*). So, in a way, a suffix comes “below” the meaning of the root word or is “secondary” to it. You should always consider the meaning of the root word first. Then figure out how the affix changes the meaning.

15. If the root word *stat* or *stit* means “to stand,” then what does the word *substitute* mean?

Prefixes

Here are some common prefixes you should know.

ambi- both

ambidextrous, ambiguous

anti- against, preventing

antibiotic, antifreeze

dis- the opposite of, not

disappear, disagree

il- against, not

illegible, illegal

im- in, within, toward, on

import, impress

in- the opposite of

inability, incorrect

mis- badly, wrong, not

misprint, misjudge

non- the opposite of, not

nonsense, nonrefundable

pre- in front of, before

preheat, prejudge

un- the opposite of, not

unlikely, unheard



TIP 14: Use words you already know to figure out what roots and affixes mean.

Sometimes you can figure out the meaning of a root or affix by thinking of other words that have the same root or affix.

16. The following roots are important in the field of medicine. Fill in the list with words you already know that use these roots. (The first two have been completed for you.) If you get stuck, use your dictionary.

Root	Meaning	Example	Definition of Example
cardio	heart	<i>cardiologist</i>	<i>a doctor specializing in the heart</i>
dactyl	finger	<i>pterodactyl</i>	<i>a dinosaur with wings and fingers</i>
dent	tooth		
derm	skin		
gastro	stomach		
hem	blood		
man	hand		
neur	nerves		
oculo	eye		
osteo	bone		
ped	foot		
psych	mind		

Suffixes

Here are some common suffixes you should know.

- able** able to be or to become something; worthy of being something
avoidable, lovable
- al** of, like, or relating to
memorial, industrial
- en** to make more so; made of
strengthen, wooden
- ful** having a lot of
beautiful, fearful
- ity** having or being a certain way
stupidity, sanity

- less** without something
odorless, spineless
- ly** in such a manner; like or suited to; occurring every so often
quickly, heavenly, weekly
- ness** the state of being something
preparedness, goodness
- ous** full of or having something
adventurous, famous
- tion, -ion, -sion** the act of, state of, result of
liberation, dehydration

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**TIP 15: Know your numbers.**

Greek and Latin prefixes are often used in mathematics. If you know how to count to 10 in Spanish, these prefixes may look familiar to you. That's because the Spanish language came from Latin.

Number	Prefix	Number	Prefix
1	uni, mono	9	nona, nov
2	duo, di, bi	10	deca
3	tri	13	triskaideka
4	quat, quad	1/10	deci
5	pent, quint	1/100	centi
6	hex, sex	1/1000	milli
7	sept	1000	kilo
8	oct		

You will sometimes see the number prefixes attached to the following roots, all of which are important in mathematics.

Root	Meaning	Example
angle	corner	triangle, quadrangle, pentangle
gon	side	pentagon, hexagon, polygon
meter	measurement	diameter, geometry, millimeter

17. If someone has quintuplets, how many of those children have the same birth date?

18. *Triskaidekaphobia* means a fear of
