

Prefixes and Suffixes



Prefixes and suffixes are commonly taught to second language learners. There seems to be general consensus that understanding prefixes and suffixes is more than an important part of English vocabulary acquisition, it is also important for learning English grammar. Teaching students prefix and suffix meanings and definitions also helps students see and use context and etymological clues that can help them make guesses about the meanings of unknown words. With smart devices and computers, these activities can be gamified. I like to share the benefits of using <http://wordhippo.com>. This website has a variety of tools, one of my favorite being the ability to search for terms that start with or end with certain prefixes and suffixes.

Commonly Used					
Prefixes			Suffixes		
Prefix	Meaning	Example(s)	Prefix	Meaning	Example(s)
anti-	against		-able, ible	can be done	
de-	opposite		-al, ial	having characteristics of	
dis-	not, opposite of		-ed	past-tense verbs, adjectives	
en-, em-	cause to		-en	made of	
fore-	before		-er	one who or comparison	
in-, im-	in		-est	most	
in-, im-, il-, ir-	not		-ful	full of	
inter-	between		-ic	having characteristics of	
mid-	middle		-ing	verb form/present participle	
mis-	wrongly		-ion, -tion, ation, ition	act, process	
non-	not		-ity, ty	state of	
over-	over		-ive, -ative, itive	adjective form	
pre-	before		-less	without	
re-	again		-ly	characteristic of	
semi-	half		-ment	action or process	
sub-	under		-ness	state of, condition of	
super-	above		-ous, -eous, -ious	possessing the qualities of	
trans-	across		-s, -es	more than one	
un-	not		-y	characterized by	
under-	under				