

## Vocabulary: Affixes

**FORM:**

<u>Prefix</u> <b>un-</b>	<u>Root</u> <b>comfort</b>	<u>Suffix</u> <b>-able</b>
-----------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------

**USE:**

Words are built from three elements: roots, prefixes and suffixes.

1. The “**root**” end - basic meaning of the word.
2. The “**prefix**” - comes before the root end and modifies the meaning.
3. The “**suffix**” - follows the root end and shows the grammatical classification or has a definite meaning.

In “**uncomfortable**”, the root end “**comfort**” means physically or mentally at ease, the prefix “**un**” means not and the suffix “**able**” means capable of being, which tells us that the word is an adjective.

**EXAMPLES:**

The word “**uncomfortable**” is an adjective which means not capable of being physically or mentally at ease with something / one.

*I never wear that uncomfortable, tight dress; I prefer this loose one.*

**A**

The prefixes listed below mean “not”, the opposite of, or the lack of.

Prefix	Example	Meaning	Example	Meaning
dis-	<i>disadvantage</i>	no advantage	<i>discourage</i>	lack of courage
non-	<i>nonhuman</i>	not human	<i>nonviolent</i>	not violent
un-	<i>untrue</i>	not true	<i>unreal</i>	not real

**B**

The prefixes listed below also mean “not”, the opposite of, or the lack of.

Prefix	Example	Meaning	Example	Meaning
in-	<i>inexpensive</i>	not expensive	<i>informal</i>	not formal
il- (use before most words that begin with the letter l)	<i>illegal</i>	not legal	<i>illogical</i>	not logical
im - (use before most words that begin with b, m or p)	<i>imbalance</i> <i>impatient</i>	lack of balance not patient	<i>immobile</i>	not mobile
ir- (use before most words that begin with the letter r)	<i>irregular</i>	not regular	<i>irrational</i>	not rational

Intermediate 3 – Exercise 20 - Vocabulary Affixes

*Using the meanings of the prefixes from chart A and B, match the following words to the correct meaning.*

1. discomfort \_\_\_\_\_
 

<p><b>A.</b> a person who gives comfort</p> <p><b>B.</b> with comfort</p>	<p><b>C.</b> at ease with</p> <p><b>D.</b> without comfort</p>
---	--
  
2. imperfect \_\_\_\_\_
 

<p><b>A.</b> to make perfect</p> <p><b>B.</b> to not be wrong</p>	<p><b>C.</b> to not have a fault or faults</p> <p><b>D.</b> to have a fault or faults</p>
---	---
  
3. untried \_\_\_\_\_
 

<p><b>A.</b> not tried</p> <p><b>B.</b> not tired</p>	<p><b>C.</b> tired before</p> <p><b>D.</b> tired</p>
---	--
  
4. nonverbal \_\_\_\_\_
 

<p><b>A.</b> to speak quietly</p> <p><b>B.</b> not spoken</p>	<p><b>C.</b> to express with words</p> <p><b>D.</b> not able to write</p>
---	---
  
5. inadequate \_\_\_\_\_
 

<p><b>A.</b> enough to do</p> <p><b>B.</b> not enough of</p>	<p><b>C.</b> not equal</p> <p><b>D.</b> more than enough</p>
--	--

C	The prefixes listed are more common prefixes where meanings will help you to understand new words.		
Prefix	Meaning	Example	Meaning
inter -	between	intercultural	between cultures
fore -	front, before	foresee	to see before
mis-	wrong (ly); bad (ly)	misinform	to inform wrongly
pre-	before	prepaid	to pay before
re-	back, again	rebuild	to build again

Intermediate 3 – Exercise 20 - Vocabulary Affixes

*Write sentences using the following words.*

1. misbehave \_\_\_\_\_
2. premix \_\_\_\_\_
3. intersection \_\_\_\_\_
4. return \_\_\_\_\_
5. forewarn \_\_\_\_\_

**D**

Common suffixes used to create adjectives.

Suffix	Meaning	Example	Meaning
-able	capable of	correctable	capable of being corrected
-ful	full of	helpful	full of help
-ible	having	terrible	having terror
-less	without	homeless	without a home (shelter)
-ous	full of, like	monstrous	like a monster

*Write definitions for the following words.*

1. lovable \_\_\_\_\_
2. sensible \_\_\_\_\_
3. useless \_\_\_\_\_
4. joyous \_\_\_\_\_
5. doubtful \_\_\_\_\_

Intermediate 3 – Exercise 20 - Vocabulary Affixes

<b>E</b> Common suffixes used to create nouns.			
Suffix	Meaning	Example	Meaning
-er / -or	person / thing that does	blender doctor	a thing that blends (mixes) a person who practices medicine
-ist/ -ian	person / practice of	pharmacist comedian	a person who prepares prescriptions a person who practices comedy
-ment	state, act of	advancement	the act of advancing
-ness	state / quality of being	sadness	the state of being sad

*Match the following words with the correct meaning.*

1.	mixer	a.	someone who acts
2.	guardian	b.	the state of being employed
3.	actor	c.	something that mixes
4.	happiness	d.	a person who takes care of
5.	employment	e.	the state of being happy

*Write the PREFIX that forms the opposite of these adjectives and verbs.*

1. ___happy	5. ___patient	9. ___polite	13. ___legal
2. ___correct	6. ___regular	10. ___visible	14. ___possible
3. ___legible	7. ___friendly	11. ___employed	15. ___honest
4. ___pack	8. ___lock	12. ___agree	16. ___appear

Complete the verbs in these sentences.

1. I'm sorry, I *mis*\_\_\_\_\_ her message completely.
2. We *un*\_\_\_\_\_ as soon as we got to the hotel, then went out for a walk.
3. She was here a minute ago, but then she *dis*\_\_\_\_\_. I don't know where she went.
4. We usually have similar opinions, but I totally *dis*\_\_\_\_\_ with him on this subject.
5. My homework was so bad that I had to *re*\_\_\_\_\_ it.
6. Her alarm clock didn't go off and she *over*\_\_\_\_\_.
7. Sandra finally managed to *un*\_\_\_\_\_ the door, and we were able to go inside.
8. I *dis*\_\_\_\_\_ the movie, but everyone else enjoyed it.
9. I don't think I'll pass the exam, but I can *re*\_\_\_\_\_ it in September.
10. Jason wrapped my present so well that it took me five minutes to *un*\_\_\_\_\_ it.
11. I was so tired that I fell asleep without getting *un*\_\_\_\_\_.
12. My spell checker corrects my mistakes whenever I *mis*\_\_\_\_\_ a word.

Agree with these statements, using one word that has the same meaning as the underlined words.

1. It's against the law, isn't it?  
Oh yes,\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Bacteria can't be seen without a microscope.  
That's right. They're practically\_\_\_\_\_.
3. David's handwriting is impossible to read.  
Yes, I know,\_\_\_\_\_.
4. She can never wait for five minutes.  
Oh no,\_\_\_\_\_.
5. I thought it was rude.  
Yes, it was very\_\_\_\_\_.
6. He doesn't have a job.  
That's right. He's \_\_\_\_\_.