

Prefix

A prefix is added to the beginning of a base or root word. It provides meaning to the word.

re-

to do
again

pre-

before

un-

not

dis-

no, not

When you add a prefix to a base or root word it changes the meaning.

pre = before view = to see

preview = to see before

*If you **preview** a movie, you are seeing it before it is released.*

Word lists with common prefixes

re	pre	un	dis
refill reheat redo replay reread rewrite	preview prepay prewrite pretest preteen preschool	unsafe uneven unlikely unfair unhappy uncommon	dislike dishonest disappear disown disagree disobey

Suffix

A suffix is added to the end of a base or root word. It provides meaning to the word.

-able

can do

-ful

full of

-less

without

-ness

state of

When you add a suffix to a base or root word it changes the meaning.

fear = worry or dread less = without

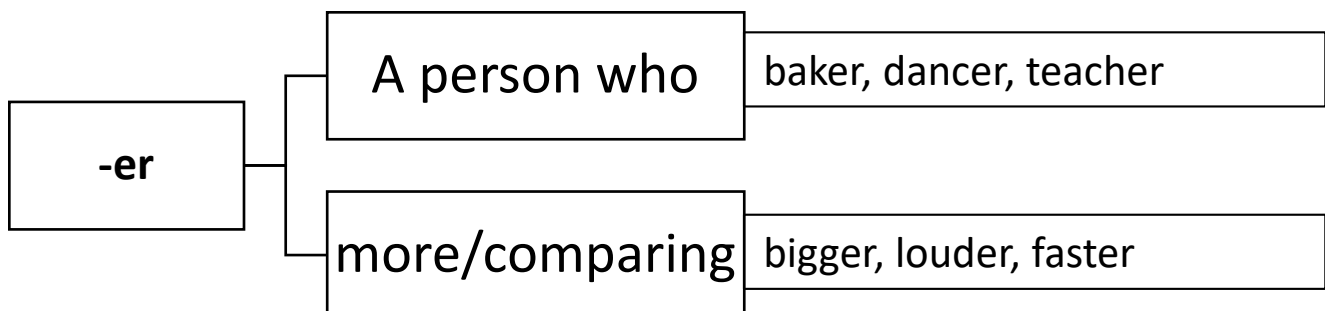
fearless = to be without fear

*If you are **fearless**, you are without worry.*

Word lists with common suffixes

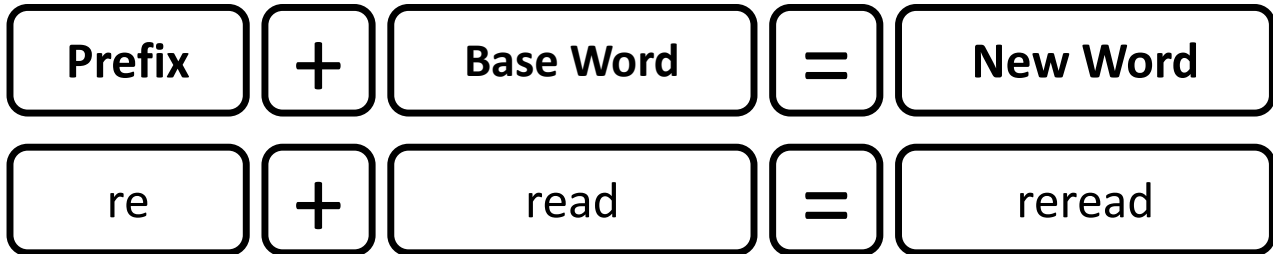
able	ful	less	ness
predictable doable usable lovable	cheerful helpful thankful fearful	fearless helpless spotless careless	sickness sadness kindness happiness

The suffix **-er** has more than one meaning



Base Words

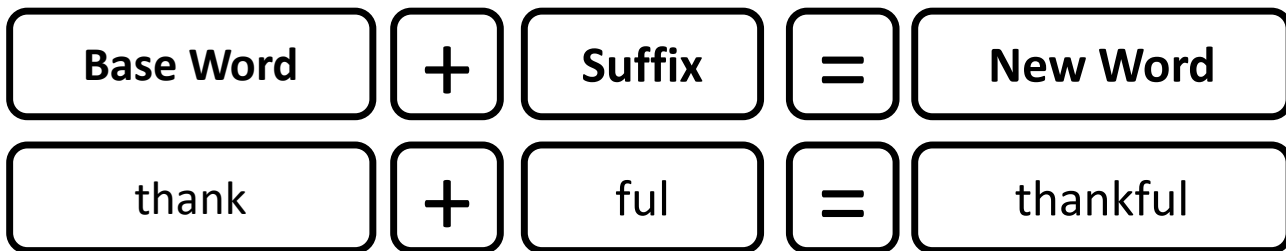
A base word is a word that can stand by itself and still have meaning. A base word can have a prefix or suffix added to it to change it's meaning.



read = to comprehend a text

re = to do again

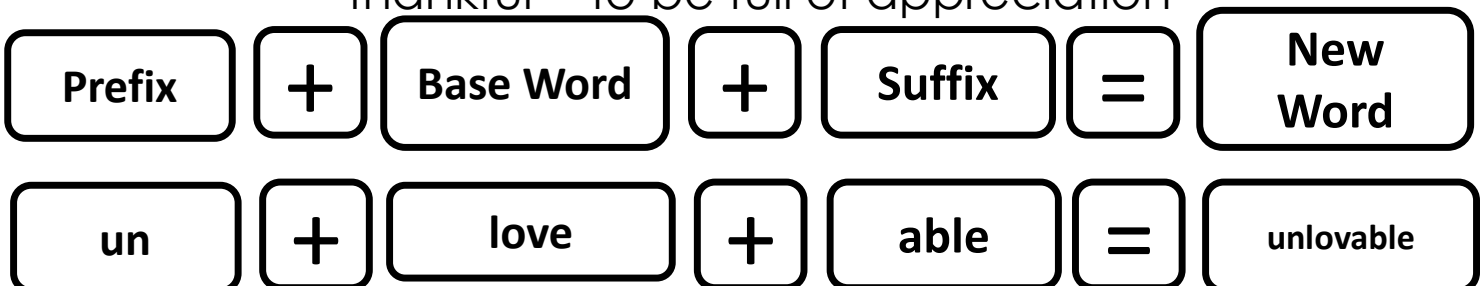
reread = to read a text over again



thank = to express appreciation

ful = full of

thankful = to be full of appreciation



un = not

love = care, devotion, strong feeling of like

able = can do

unlovable = not able to love, not lovable

Root Words

A root word is a word that has a Latin or Greek root combined with a prefix or suffix. A Greek or Latin root is not a word by itself, but still has meaning.

You can use roots to help determine word meaning.

Bicycle = a vehicle with two wheels.

- You can use the root **bi** to know that we are talking about something with two.
- You can use the root **cycl** to know we are talking about something circular.

Common Greek and Latin Roots

bi <i>two</i>	port <i>to carry</i>	graph <i>to write</i>	tele <i>far</i>
bicycle bisect bilingual biweekly	transport portable import export	photograph biography autograph homograph	television telephone telegraph telecast

tri <i>three</i>	hydra <i>water</i>	dict <i>to speak/say</i>	spect <i>look/see</i>
tricycle triangle tripod triplets	hydrant hydration dehydrate hydroplane	dictionary dictate dictator verdict	spectator spectacles aspect inspect

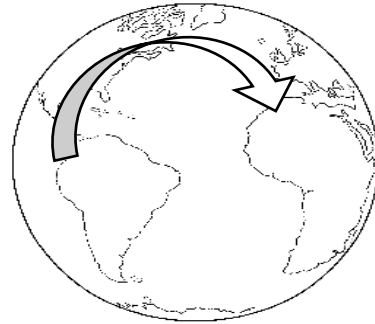
tele

Origin: Greek

Meaning

Picture

far or distant



EXAMPLES:

Word	Word Parts	Definition
telephone	tele + phon(e) (far + sound)	A device used to transmit sound over a long distance
teleport	tele + port (far + carry)	To be transported a long distance instantly
television	tele + vis(ion) (far + see)	A device used to transmit images
telegram	tele + gram (far + write)	To send a message in writing
telepathy	tele + path(y) (far + feeling)	To communicate thoughts or feelings directly to another person's mind

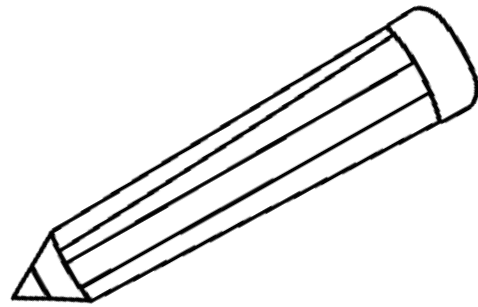
graph/gram

Origin: Greek

Meaning

Picture

write or draw



EXAMPLES:

Word	Word Parts	Definition
autograph	auto + graph (self + write)	A signature
photograph	photo + graph (light + write)	A picture
paragraph	para + graph (beside + write)	A section of writing
biography	bio + graph(y) (life + write)	A written account of someone's life
telegraph	tele + graph (far + write)	To send a message from a far distance
geography	geo + graph(y) (earth + write)	The study of the earth's features
polygraph	poly + graph (many + write)	A device that can record many variations

spec/spect

Origin: Latin

Meaning

Picture

to see or look



EXAMPLES:

Word	Word Parts	Definition
spectate	spect + ate (see + to be)	To watch or observe
respect	re + spect (again + see)	To regard
introspection	Intro + spec(tion) (inward + see)	A view of the inside or interior
inspect	in + spect (into + see)	To look upon
retrospective	retro + spect(ive) (backwards + see)	Looking backward
expect	ex + (s)pect (away from + see)	To look forward to or to await something

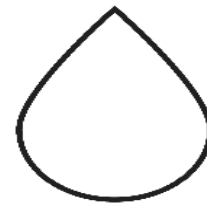
hydra/hydro

Origin: Greek

Meaning

Picture

water



EXAMPLES:

Word	Word Parts	Definition
hydrate	hydra + ate (water + to be)	To combine with water
hydration	hydra + tion (water + action)	The process of combining with water
hydrant	hydra + ant (water + agent)	A water faucet
hydrophobia	hydro + phobia (water + fear)	Fear of water
hydroplane	hydro + plane (water + vehicle)	A light, fast motor boat to skim over the surface of water
dehydrate	de + hydra + ate (reverse + water + to be)	To remove water or moisture from something

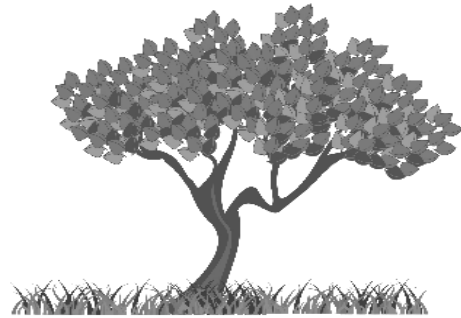
bio

Origin: Greek

Meaning

Picture

life



EXAMPLES:

Word	Word Parts	Definition
biology	bio + ology (life + study)	The science of life or living matter
biography	bio + graph(y) (life + write)	A written account of another person's life
biochemistry	bio + chem(istry) (life + chemical)	The science dealing with the chemistry of living matter
biopsy	bio + opsy (life + view of)	To remove and view tissue from a living body for testing purposes
autobiography	auto + bio + graph(y) (self + life + write)	A history of a person's life written by that person

auto

Origin: Greek

Meaning

Picture

self



EXAMPLES:

Word	Word Parts	Definition
autograph	auto + graph (self + write)	A signature, especially that of a celebrity
automobile	auto + mob(ile) (self + move)	A car
automatic	auto + matic (self + willing)	A device or process working by itself
autopilot	auto + pilot (self + guide)	An electronic control self-guiding system
autonomous	auto + nomous (self + law)	Having the freedom to act independently
autoimmune	auto + immune (self + resistance)	An internal attack on one's own body

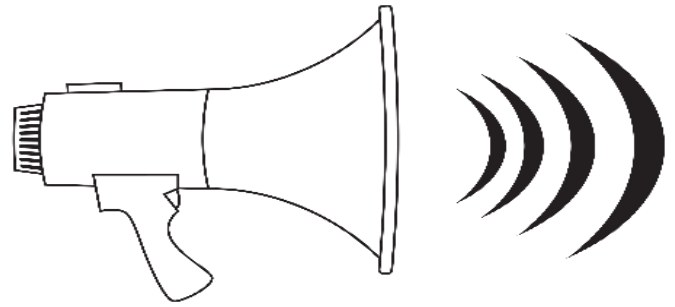
phon

Origin: Greek

Meaning

Picture

sound



EXAMPLES:

Word	Word Parts	Definition
microphone	micro + phon(e) <i>(small + sound)</i>	A device that changes sound into an electrical signal
megaphone	mega + phon(e) <i>(giant + sound)</i>	A cone-shaped device used to make one's voice louder
homophone	homo + phon(e) <i>(same + sound)</i>	Words that sound the same but have different spellings
phonics	phon + ic(s) <i>(sound + study)</i>	The method of teaching reading
cacophony	cac(o) + phon(y) <i>(bad + sound)</i>	Harsh discordant sound

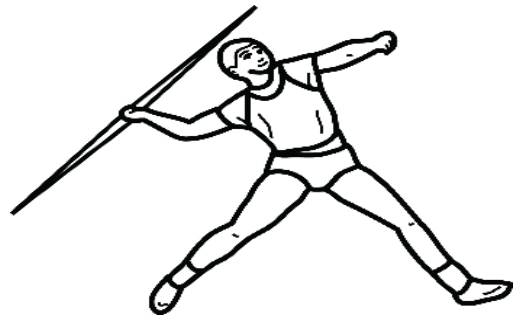
ject

Origin: Latin

Meaning

Picture

to throw or hurl



EXAMPLES:

Word	Word parts	Definition
inject	in + ject (into + throw)	To force or drive (a fluid) into something
reject	re + ject (again + throw)	To refuse to accept
dejected	de + ject(ed) (down + throw)	Being down, sad or depressed
object	ob + ject (against + throw)	To disagree or oppose
project	pro + ject (forward + throw)	To throw or cast forward
trajectory	tra + ject + ory (across + throw + place)	A path on which something travels or moves