

MEANING OF PREFIXES



When working with prefixes it is important to recognise their role in changing the meaning of the base word. Ask the child to consider groups of words and see if they can figure out the meaning of the prefix for themselves. Be clear that prefixes do not affect base words. Just like with compound words we just 'glue' the bits together to make the new word. Exploring prefixes and meanings can be entirely oral - just talking about words and what they mean. It is not expected that children will write or remember all these prefixes.

RE-

It means
'again'
or
'back'

*replace
remove
retake*

EN- EM-

It means
'causes'

*enjoy
entrap
enclose*

SUPER-

It means
'better'
or
'bigger'

*superman
superstar
superglue*

OVER-

It means
'too much'
or
'above'

*overload
overflow
overgrow*

SEMI-

It means
'half'

*semicircle
semisolid
semicolon*

PRE-

It means
'before'

*prejudge
preschool
preview*

FORE-

It means
'before'
or 'in front'

*forehead
forearm
forewarn*

MID-

It means
'in the
middle of'

*midnight
midweek
midwinter*

IN- IM-

It means
'in' or
'into'

*inside
include
implant*

INTER-

It means
'between'

*intercity
international
interpersonal*

TRANS-

It means
'across'

*transplant
transfusion
transport*

SUB-

It means
'below'

*subway
subtitle
subsoil*

UNDER-

It means
'under' or
'not
enough'

*underline
underground
underpay*

DE-

It means
'down' or
'opposite
of'

*decode
deform
degrade*

MIS-

It means
'wrongly'

*misuse
mislead
misplace*

ANTI-

It means
'against'

*antisocial
antibiotics
antiaging*

IN- IM- IL- IR-

It means
'not'

*impossible
indirect
impolite*

DIS-

It means
'not'
or
'opposite'

*dislike
disagree
disorder*

UN-

It means
'not'

*unlucky
unhappy
unable*

NON-

It means
'not'
or
'opposite'

*nonslip
nonsense
nonstick*