

## MOST FREQUENT PREFIXES

Prefix	Meaning	Key Word	Origin
anti-	against	antifreeze	Latin
de-	opposite	defrost	Latin
dis-*	not, opposite of	disagree	Latin
en-, em-	cause to	encode, embrace	Latin
fore-	before	forecast	Latin
in-, im-	in	infield	Latin
in-, im-, il-, ir-*	not	injustice, impossible	Latin
inter-	between	interact	Latin
mid-	middle	midway	Latin
mis-	wrongly	misfire	Latin
non-	not	nonsense	Latin
over-	over	overlook	Anglo-Saxon
pre-	before	prefix	Latin
re-*	again	return	Latin
semi-	half	semicircle	Latin
sub-	under	submarine	Latin
super-	above	superstar	Latin
trans-	across	transport	Latin
un-*	not	unfriendly	Anglo-Saxon
under-	under	undersea	Anglo-Saxon

*\*Most frequent. The four most frequent prefixes account for 97 percent of prefixed words in printed school English.*

### REFERENCE

White, T. G., J. Sowell, and A. Yanagihara. 1989. Teaching elementary students to use word-part clues. *The Reading Teacher* 42.

## MOST FREQUENT SUFFIXES

Suffix	Meaning	Key Word	Origin
-able, -ible	can be done	comfortable	Latin
-al, -ial	having characteristics of	personal	Latin
-ed*	past-tense verbs	hopped	Anglo-Saxon
-en	made of	wooden	Latin
-er	comparative	higher	Anglo-Saxon
-er, -or	one who	worker, actor	Anglo-Saxon
-est	comparative	biggest	Anglo-Saxon
-ful	full of	careful	Anglo-Saxon
-ic	having characteristics of	linguistic	Latin
-ing*	verb form/present participle	running	Anglo-Saxon
-ion, -tion, -ation, -ition	act, process	occasion, attraction	Latin
-ity, -ty	state of	infinity	Latin
-ive, -ative, -itive	adjective form of a noun	plaintive	Latin
-less	without	fearless	Anglo-Saxon
-ly*	characteristic of	quickly	Anglo-Saxon
-ment	action or process	enjoyment	Latin
-ness	state of, condition of	kindness	Anglo-Saxon
-ous, -eous, -ious	possessing the qualities of	joyous	Latin
-s, -es*	more than one	books, boxes	Anglo-Saxon
-y	characterized by	happy	Latin

3.31

*\*Most frequent. The four most frequent suffixes account for 72 percent of suffixed words in printed school English.*

### REFERENCE

White, T. G., J. Sowell, and A. Yanagihara. 1989. Teaching elementary students to use word-part clues. *The Reading Teacher* 42.