Common Roots in English

ROOT	MEANING	EXAMPLES
ceive, cept	take, seize	*receive, conceive, concept, intercept*
dic	speak	*dictionary, dictate, contradict, predict, verdict*
duc	lead	*educate, produce, conduct, reduce*
fac, fic, fec	make, do	*factual, perfect, manufacture, fiction, efficient, defect*
fer	carry, bear	*offer, defer, confer, prefer*
graph, gram	write	*graph, monograph, autograph, telegram*
loc	place	*location, dislocate, allocate, local*
log	word, study	*dialogue, epilogue, logic, geology*
meter, metre	measure	*barometer, thermometer, centimetre*
mit, miss	send	*transmit, submit, intermittent, mission*
phon	sound	*phonology, symphony, phonics, telephone*
plic, plex, ply	fold	*implicate, complicated, complex, perplex, multiply*
pos, pon	put, place	*position, dispose, compose, deposit, opposite, opponent*
spec, spic	see, look	*aspect, spectator, inspect, respect, conspicuous, spectacles*
scribe, script	write	*inscribe, script, description, manuscript*
sta, st	stand	*station, status, insist, persist, protest*
tain, ten (1)	hold, have, keep	*detain, retain, contain, tenacious, maintenance*
tele	far	*telephone, television, telepathy, telegram*
ten (2)	stretch	*extend, extent, intend, intense, tension, tense*
vis, vid	see	*vision, visible, evidence, provide*

Common English Prefixes

PREFIX	OTHER FORMS	MEANING	EXAMPLES
ab-	a-, an-	from, away, up, out, not	*abnormal, abolish, abduct, atheist, abstract, absent, anarchy*
ad-	a-, ac-, af-, ag- al-, an-, as-, at-	to, towards	*add, admit, address, advertise, adhere, accept, affix, affluent, affiliate, agree, allegiance, announce, ascend, attach*
com-	co-, col-, con-, cor-	with, together	*combine, cooperate, collect, contain, correct*
de-		from, down, away	*defend, depend, decline, deceive, descend, deduct*

Coelho, E. (2016). Adding English: a guide to teaching in multilingual classrooms. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Common English Prefixes continued

PREFIX	OTHER FORMS	MEANING	EXAMPLES
dis-	di-, dif-	not; apart, away	*disagree, dislike, distasteful; distance, diffuse, different*
ex-	e-, ef-	out, beyond	*extract, expand, exceed, educate, erase, effluent*
in- (1)	ig-, im-, il-, ir-	not	*inactive, indecent, incomplete, ignorant, ignoble, impossible, illogical, illegal, irreversible, irreparable*
in- (2)	im-, il-, ir-	into	*include, inform, invite, inhale, infect, import, immigrate, illuminate, illustrate, irradiate*
inter-		between, among	*interview, interfere, intervene, international*
mis-		bad, wrong	*mistake, misbehave, mislead, misrepresent*
non-		not	*nonviolent, nondescript, nonconformist*
ob-	op-, of-, oc-	against, towards	*objection, obtain, opposite, oppose, offer, offend, occasion, occur, occult*
over-		above, too much	*oversee, overpower, overwhelming*
per-		through	*perceive, perfect, perform, persuade, pervasive*
pre-		before	*prevent, predict, prefix, preview, prejudice*
pro-		forward, in favour	*progress, prosperity, produce, protect, proactive*
re-		again, back	*reform, review, return, reduce, reflect*
sub-	suc-, suf-, sug-, sup-, sur-, sus-	under, close to	*submerge, subvert, succeed, suffix, suffer, support, surround, suspect*
trans-		across, beyond	*transport, transfer, translate, transcribe*
un-		not	*unhappy, unlike, undo, unable*

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Common English Suffixes

SUFFIXES	WORD CLASS (MEANING)	EXAMPLES
-al	adjective	*usual, bilingual, fundamental, critical*
-ic	adjective	*economic, linguistic, public, poetic*
-y	adjective	*easy, sunny, funny, cheesy, watery, icy*
-ant, -ent	adjective	*pleasant, defiant, diligent, excellent*
-ive	adjective	*active, passive, negative, furtive*
-ous	adjective: full of	*dangerous, marvellous, joyous*
-ble	adjective: able to	*portable, possible, credible*
-ward	adjective: direction	*towards, forward, backward, westward, upward*
-ern	adjective: direction	*southern, western*
-ful	adjective: full of	*resourceful, helpful, useful*
-less	adjective: without	*useless, hopeless, worthless, careless*
-ly	adverb	*easily, usually, linguistically*
-ion, -tion, -sion	noun (abstract)	*union, education, confederation, expansion*
-ment	noun (abstract)	*government, judgement, announcement*
-ty, -ity	noun (abstract)	*safety, beauty, loyalty, unity, charity, necessity*
-ance, -ence	noun (abstract)	*repentance, ignorance, violence, absence*
-ship	noun (abstract)	*hardship, friendship, fellowship, citizenship*
-ism	noun (abstract): belief	*Hinduism, Judaism, socialism, racism, sexism*
-ant, -ent	noun: person	*immigrant, assistant, student, superintendent*
-ian	noun: person	*historian, physician, mathematician, musician*
-ist	noun: person	*biologist, pharmacist, specialist, dentist, racist*
-er, -or	noun: person or instrument	*teacher, ruler, hanger, doctor, actor, protractor*
-ate	verb	*indicate, immigrate, communicate*
-ize	verb	*symbolize, realize, organize*
-en	verb	*tighten, loosen, moisten, fasten, frighten*

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