

# 90 Common Prefixes and Their Meanings

Prefix	Most Common Meaning	Sample Word
a	not, without	abyss
a	at, in, on, to	asleep
ab	from, away	abnormal
ad	to, toward, near	adjacent
ambi	both	ambidextrous
ante	before	antecedent
anti	against	antibody
arch	chief, most important	archangel
at	to, toward	attend
auto	self	automobile
bi	two, twice	biannual
be	about, become	befriend
bene	good	benevolent
circum	around	circumnavigate
co	with, together	coexist
con	with, jointly	concur
contra	against	contradict
counter	opposite	counterclockwise
de	reduce, away, down, remove	debug
deca	ten	decathlon
demi	half	demigod
di	two	divert
dia	through, across	diameter
dis	not, do the opposite	discontinue
dys	bad, abnormal	dysfunction
en	to cause, provide	enable
endo	internal	endocrine
epi	on, over, among, after	epidemic
equi	equal	equidistant
ethno	race, nation	ethnography

Prefix	Most Common Meaning	Sample Word
eu	good, happy	euphoria
ex	out of, away from	exhale
ex	former	ex-president
exo	outside	exoskeleton
extra	outside, beyond	extraordinary
for	away, against, not	forbid
fore	before, in front of	forehead
homo	same	homogeneous
hydro	water	hydroelectric
hyper	extra, over, beyond	hyperextend
hypo	under, below	hypothermia
il	not	illegible
im	not	improper
in	within, into	intrude
in	not	inhumane
infra	below, underneath	infrastructure
inter	among, between	interfere
intra	inside	intravenous
intro	inwards	introspect
ir	not	irresponsible
iso	equal	isosceles
macro	large	macroeconomics
mal	bad	maltreat
mega	large	megaphone
meta	change, after, between	metaphysics
micro	very small	microscope
mini	small	minibus
mis	wrongly, badly	misbehave
mono	one, single	monorail
multi	many	multicolor
neo	new	neoclassical
non	not	nonexistent
ob	in the way of	obscure
octa	eight	octagon
omni	all	omnipotent
over	above, too much	overdo
pan	whole	panorama

Prefix	Most Common Meaning	Sample Word
para	alongside, similar to	paramedic
patri	father	patriarch
peri	around	periscope
poly	many	polygamy
post	after	postpone
pre	before	prevent
pro	forward, in favor of	propose
proto	earliest, original	prototype
pseudo	wrong, false	pseudoscience
quad	four	quadruple
re	again, back	retell
retro	backward	retroactive
semi	half, partial	semicircle
step	relationship due to remarriage	stepmother
sub	under, lower than	submarine
super	more than, above, extra	supermarket
tele	far	telescope
trans	across, beyond	transportation
tri	three	tricycle
ultra	beyond, extreme	ultraconservative
un	not, the reverse of	uninspired
under	beneath, below, insufficient	undercook
uni	one	unicycle
up	toward a higher position	uplift
vice	in place of	vice-president
with	from, against	withhold