

## Word part clues to word meanings

If you can't figure out words from context clues, another way is to learn word parts: prefixes, roots, and suffixes. Prefixes are groups of letters with meanings that appear in front of a word; suffixes appear at the end of a word. The root or stem is the basic part of a word. Learning meanings of word parts can save you time and increase your word power.

### Important prefixes

prefixes that mean "no" or "not"	meaning	example
a	not, without	amoral
anti	against	antisocial
il	not	illegal
im	not	immobile
In	not	insensitive
ir	not	irresponsible
mal	badly	malformed
mis	wrongly	misdirected
non	not	nonrefundable
un	not	unattractive

prefixes that deal with numbers	meaning	example
auto	self	autograph
bi	two	bifocal
mono	one	monologue
multi	many	multicolored
poly	many	polygon
tri	three	tripod
uni	one	unicycle

prefixes that deal with time	meaning	example
ante	before	antedated
post	after	postoperative
pre	before	prerequisite

prefixes that deal with placement	meaning	example
ab	away from	abnormal
circum	around	circumscribe
com	with, together	committee
de	down from	descend
dis	away	discharge
ex	out of	expel
inter	among	intertwine
per	through	perceive
re	again	rebirth

super	above	supercede
trans	across	transition

### Important roots

root	meaning	example
cred	believe	credible
equ	equal	equate
fac, fact	do; make	factory
graph	written	monograph
mis, mit	send	missile
mor, mort	die	mortify
nomen	name	nominal
port	carry	portable
pos	place	position
spic, spec	look	spectator
tang	touch	tangible
vert	turn	subvert
vid, vis	see	vision
voc	call	vocation

### Important suffixes

suffix	meaning	example
able	able to be	manageable
ible	able to be	defensible
al	relating to	regal
ance	relating to	resistance
ence	relating to	independence
ic	relating to	Heroic
hood	state of	brotherhood