

Prefixes (2)

Many longer words are made up of at least three distinct parts - a prefix, a root and a suffix. Adding a prefix or a suffix is often a quick way of changing the meaning of a root word.

e.g. **un** (prefix) + **employ** (root) + **ment** (suffix) = **unemployment**

A **prefix** is a group of letters with a meaning of its own which comes at the beginning of a word. Most prefixes came originally from either Latin or Greek.

- Knowing the meanings of some of the most common prefixes can help you to guess at the meanings of new words.
- Knowing the spellings of common prefixes can help you to break down longer words into parts which are easier to learn.

A Opposites

un- dis- de-

Add one of the prefixes above to each of the words below to make it mean the opposite:

do	appear	value	agree
freeze	like	fair	code
dress	bug	approve	known
expected	advantage	skilled	true

Think of some more words with these prefixes. Do they always make words into opposites?

B Word puzzle

Many words begin with the prefix re-. Fill in the puzzle.

1. Play it again!
2. Say it again
3. Go back (or come back)
4. Do up something old
5. Think of the past
6. Drive backwards
7. Jog the memory
8. Swot for an exam

R	E				
R	E				
R	E				
R	E				
R	E				
R	E				
R	E				
R	E				

Make up your own puzzle like this one, using other words beginning with re-.

C Prefixes as words

Many prefixes are used in everyday expressions, often as words in their own right.

What do these mean? Write them in full if they are abbreviations.

p.s.	P.M.T.	sub.	ad infinitum
pros and cons	re	'ex'	ad nauseam
a.m.	p.m.	pp. (in a letter)	ad lib.