

Word-formation

BASE (as distinct from STEM- a part of the word remaining after every affix has been removed)

e.g. friend – stem

friendly= friend+ly (stem = base + affix)

unfriendly = un + friendly (friendly is a base but not the stem)

Derivation:

friend	noun
friend+ly	noun > adjective
un+friend+ly	adjective > adjective
un+friend+li-ness	adjective > noun

Chief processes by which the BASE may be modified:

AFFIXATION

- a) **Prefixation** -adding a prefix to the base, with or without a change of word-class e.g. author – co-author
- b) **Suffixation**- adding a suffix to the base, with or without a change of word-class e.g. drive – driver

CONVERSION ('zero affixation') assigning the base to a different word class without changing its form (e.g. drive v.- drive n.)

COMPOUNDING – adding one base to another (hang+man=hangman)

- **Prefixation**

- Generally does not alter the word-class of the base
- Productive prefixes have a light stress on their first syllable eg. /pre'fabricated/

Negative prefixes	meaning	example
• UN-	the opposite of, not	unfair
• NON-	not	non-smoker
• IN-/IL-/IM-/IR-	not	insane
• DIS-	not	dislike
• A-	lacking in	amoral

Prefixation

Reversative or privative prefixes

UN-

meaning

to reverse action

to deprive of

DE-

to reverse action

DIS-

to reverse /deprive

examples

untie

unhorse

deforestation

disconnect

Pejorative prefixes

MIS-

meaning

wrongly

MAL-

badly

PSEUDO-

false/imitation

examples

misinform

malfunction

pseudo-intellectual

Prefixation

Prefixes of degree/ size	meaning	examples
• ARCH-	highest, worst	archduke
• SUPER-	above, more than better	supernatural
• OUT-	to do sth. faster, longer...	outlive
• SUR-	over and above	surtax
• SUB-	lower/less than	substandard
• OVER-	too much	overconfident
• UNDER-	too little	underprivileged
• HYPER-	extremely	hypercritical
• ULTRA-	extremely, beyond	ultra-modern
• MINI-	little	mini-van

Prefixation

Prefixes of attitude	meaning	examples
CO-	with, joint	cooperate
COUNTER-	in opposition to	counteract
ANTI-	against	anti-clockwise
PRO-	on the side of	pro-Common Market

Locative prefixes

SUPER-	over	superstructure
SUB-	beneath, lesser in rank	subconscious
INTER-	between, among	international
TRANS-	across, from one place to another	transplant

Prefixation

- | Prefixes of time/order | meaning | examples |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| • FORE- | before | forknowledge |
| • PRE- | before | pre-marital |
| • POST- | after | post-war |
| • EX- | former | ex-husband |
| • RE- | again, back | re-evaluate |
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- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------|
| • Number prefixes | | |
| • UNI-, MONO | one | unilateral |
| • BI-, DI-, | two | bilingual |
| • TRI- | three | tripartite |
| • MULTY-, POLY- | many | multi-racial |

