



## Lesson Plan: Building Words with Prefixes & Suffixes

<b>Grade / Level</b>	<b>Grades 5 – 9 · CEFR A2–B1</b>
<b>Time</b>	45 minutes
<b>Focus</b>	Word formation with common prefixes & suffixes

### 1 Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will:

1. Recognise at least six high-frequency prefixes and suffixes.
2. Add affixes to base words to create new vocabulary.
3. Explain in simple terms how the meaning changes.

### 2 Materials

- Prefix & Suffix Table (project or print)
- Mini-whiteboards **or** notebook paper
- Scissors + prefix/suffix cards (template below)
- Exit Ticket slips

### 3 Warm-Up (5 min)

Write two base words on the board—**play** and **happy**. Ask:

“How could we make new words from these?”

Elicit *replay*, *playful*, *unhappy*, etc. Circle each affix.

### 4 Mini-Lesson (8 min)

Project the table. Briefly teach meanings for:

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Suffix	Meaning	Example
<b>un-</b>	not / opposite	<i>unfair</i>	<b>-ful</b>	full of	<i>joyful</i>
<b>re-</b>	again	<i>rebuild</i>	<b>-less</b>	without	<i>hopeless</i>
<b>mis-</b>	wrong / badly	<i>misplace</i>	<b>-able</b>	can be / capable	<i>readable</i>

Emphasise: **base word + affix → new meaning**.

### 5 Card-Sort Activity (12 min)

Hand out strips: base words, prefixes, suffixes.

1. Students work in pairs to **match** one prefix or suffix to each base word.
2. They record the new word and write a 6-word definition.
3. Pairs share one favourite word; class decides if the meaning is correct.

**Tip:** Include a few “wild cards” (affixes that don’t fit) to prompt discussion.

### 6 Sentence Challenge (10 min)

On mini-whiteboards, call out a base word (e.g., **cover**).

- Students create two sentences: one using a **prefix** form (*discover*), one using a **suffix** form (*coverage*).
- Quick peer check, then display a model answer.

## 7 Quick Quiz (5 min)

Orally ask three questions:

1. "What does the prefix **pre-** mean?" (before)
2. "Add a suffix to **care** that means 'without'." (careless)
3. "True or False: **submarine** uses the prefix **sub-** meaning 'under'." (True)

Students hold up ✓ / ✗ cards or thumbs-up / thumbs-down.

## 8 Exit Ticket (5 min)

Each student completes:

**Base word:** *light*

**New word with prefix:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Meaning:** \_\_\_\_\_

**New word with suffix:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Meaning:** \_\_\_\_\_

Collect tickets to assess individual understanding.

## 9 Optional Homework

Create a three-panel comic strip that uses **any two** words you built today; underline the affix in each panel.

### Prefix / Suffix Card Template

*(Print, cut, and shuffle)*

**Prefixes:** un- re- mis- pre- over- sub-

**Suffixes:** -ful -less -able -ness -ment -er

**Base Words:** play cover happy agree create move

**Teacher Note:**

This lesson is self-contained—no tech tools required. To extend, invite students to research **Greek or Latin roots** for five of today's words and present to the class next session.