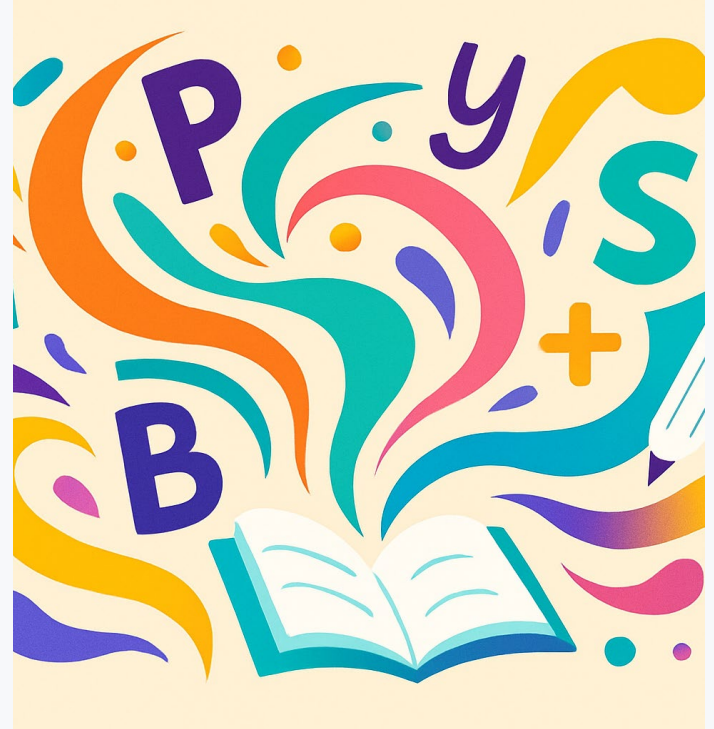


Prefixes & Suffixes

Word-Building Workshop

50 Examples & Teaching Tips



Agenda



Understanding Prefixes & Suffixes



Common Prefixes



Common Suffixes



Examples with Prefixes & Suffixes



50 Prefix & Suffix Examples



Teaching Tips & Activities



Workshop & Resources



Conclusion & Next Steps

Understanding Prefixes & Suffixes

Prefix

Added at the beginning of a word to modify its meaning.

Example: unhappy (un- = not)

Suffix

Added at the end of a word to change its form or function.

Example: happiness (-ness = state/quality)

Prefixes and suffixes are building blocks of words. Mastering them empowers students to decode meaning, expand vocabulary and enhance reading fluency.

Common Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example
un-	not; opposite of	unhappy
re-	again	redo
pre-	before	preview
dis-	not; opposite of	disagree
mis-	wrongly	misplace
in-	not	invisible
over-	too much	overeat
sub-	under	submarine

These common prefixes change the meaning of a base word. Learning them helps students recognise patterns and decode unfamiliar vocabulary.

Common Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-ness	state or quality	kindness
-ful	full of	hopeful
-less	without	careless
-able	capable of	readable
-ly	in the manner of	quickly
-er	person who / more	teacher
-ment	result of	enjoyment
-est	the most	fastest

Suffixes modify how a word functions. Recognising them helps students create new words and understand grammar roles.

Affixes in Context

Prefix Examples

- 1. mis- : mis-understood the directions
- 2. in- : in-edible soup
- 3. sub- : sub-marine adventure
- 4. re- : re-build the shelter

Suffix Examples

- 1. -er : teach-er in the class
- 2. -ness : kind-ness opens hearts
- 3. -less : fear-less hero
- 4. -ly : quick-ly running across the field

Seeing affixes in sentences helps learners connect form to meaning and usage.

Overview: 50 Example Affixes

Sample Prefixes

1. Anti-: anti-war protest
2. Bi-: bilateral symmetry
3. Co-: co-author a book
4. De-: de-code a message
5. Mis-: mis-communication

Sample Suffixes

1. -able: stretch-able fabric
2. -er: lifesav-er firefighter
3. -ful: insight-ful speech
4. -hood: child-hood memories
5. -ing: runn-ing across field

Full list of 50 examples available in the article – this slide shows only a representative selection.

Prefix vs Suffix vs Root Word

Prefix

Comes at the beginning of a word.
Changes meaning.
Example: un-happy

Root Word

The core of the word.
Carries the basic meaning.
Example: agree

Suffix

Comes at the end of a word.
Changes function or form.
Example: happi-ness

Some words can contain both a prefix and a suffix (e.g., unkindness). Understanding roots allows students to build vocabulary intentionally.

Teaching Tips & Activities

1. Root Word Building

Use flashcards with roots, prefixes and suffixes. Students mix & match to form new words.

2. Affix Bingo / Sorting

Create bingo cards or sorting mats where students categorise words by affix type.

3. Anchor Charts & Word Walls

Post visual charts listing common affixes and examples. Use walls as ongoing reference.

4. Word Detective Challenge

Have learners find affixed words in texts and break them down in a word journal.

Interactive tools like the Prefix & Suffix Builder and Quiz can enhance engagement and provide quick formative checks.

Workshop & Resources

1. Lesson Plan

45-minute word-building workshop. Includes card-sort, sentence building challenges and quick quiz. Ideal for grades 5-9 ESL or morphology units.

2. Worksheet

Two-page practice sheet: match affixes to meanings, create new words, fix common errors and write your own sentences.

Use the lesson plan and worksheet alongside the quiz and builder tools for a complete unit on affixes.

Conclusion & Next Steps

- Prefixes go before a base word and change its meaning, while suffixes follow and change its form.
- Mastering affixes helps students decode unfamiliar words and build their vocabulary.
- Use games, charts, builders and quizzes to keep lessons interactive.
- Encourage students to become word detectives – they'll uncover the magic of language.

Continue exploring and experimenting with prefixes and suffixes. Download the resources and use the builder & quiz for extended practice!