

Build your vocabulary with the really tricky prefix game

Below are 20 less common prefixes. Without using the internet or a dictionary, see how many additional words you can think of for each prefix and then see if you can work out what the prefix and the examples mean. Once you have done as many as you can, look online/in a dictionary and write down other examples you have heard before in another colour. If you can, jot down a simple definition and see if you can spot them in your reading. The first one has been done for you because it's the most difficult.

Warning: some words begin with the same letters as a prefix, but they aren't prefixes, e.g., *person*

Prefix	Subjects often found in	Two examples	Your examples	Highlight meaning
1. Ante (Latin)	English; science; geography	ante meridiem (a.m.) antedate	antecedent; antennae; antediluvian;	after/ before
2. per (Latin)	maths; science; music; English	perceive percent		not/ through
3. poly (Greek)	science; maths; history	polyclinic polydemic		heat/ many
4. a/an (Greek)	English; science;	anonymous anemic		Not (absence) /more
5. anti/ant (Greek)	English; science; geography	antidote antithesis		down/ against
6. bi (Latin)	maths; science	bifocal biennial		into/ two
7. circ/circum (Latin)	maths; science; PE	circumference circumcise		out of/ around
8. be (Old English)	English; science; maths	berate bemused		again/ intensive
9. apo (Greek)	Science; religion, English; history	apostrophe apocalypse		away from /into
10. ab/abs (Latin)	religion, English history; science	abstain abdicate		between/ away from
11. non (Latin)	English; business history; science; RE	nonsensical nonconformist		before/ not
12. e/ec/ex (Latin)	English; science	eclipse effusive		wrong/ out
13. di (Greek)	English; science; maths	dilemma digraph		after/ 2 or separate
14. il/ir (Latin)	English; law	illiterate irregular		forward/ not
15. ad (Latin)	English; science	advise administer		again/ to or toward
16. em/en (Latin)	English; geography; history	employ enrol		in (into)/ not
17. super (Latin)	history; English	superimpose superlative		within/ above
18. intra (Latin)	science; geography	intracoastal intramolecular		within/ down/
19. ob/of/ op (Latin)	English; law	obliterate oppose		against (facing) /for or with
20. intro (Latin)	English; philosophy; psychology	introspection introvert		not or against/ into or inward