

Prefixes, Suffixes, and Base Words

Objective

Students will read words with prefixes and suffixes and identify their meaning.

Materials

- Handout 1: Prefixes, Suffixes, and Base Words
- Handout 2: Common Prefixes and Suffixes
- Optional video for teacher: *Affixes With Unchanging Base Words*
(<http://texasgateway.org/resource/affixes-unchanging-base-words>)

Overview

Explicitly model and provide multiple opportunities to practice with corrective feedback.

Activity

1. Review the definitions on Handout 1.
2. Provide examples for students:
 - *Re-* means “again,” so *reread* means “to read again”; *read* is the base word
 - *Dis-* means “opposite,” so *disown* means “does not own”; *own* is the base word
3. Review the directions on Handout 1.
4. Model the two examples, *unlock* and *tallest*.
5. Have students complete Handout 1. Provide support as necessary.
6. Review the common prefixes and suffixes on Handout 2.

Adapted from Vaughn Gross Center for Reading and Language Arts at The University of Texas at Austin. (2009). *Teacher reading academies*. Austin, TX: Author.

Prefixes, Suffixes, and Base Words

Definitions

- **Base word:** A complete word that can stand alone without an affix (teach, sad, like, cook, write, play)
- **Affix:** A letter or group of letters added to the beginning or end of a word to change its meaning; a prefix or suffix
- **Prefix:** An affix placed before a base word (unlike, precook, rewrite)
- **Suffix:** An affix placed at the end of a base word (teacherer, sadly, playful)

Directions

1. Underline the prefix or suffix.
2. Write the prefix or suffix.
3. Write the base word.
4. Write the meaning of the word.
5. Write a sentence that uses the word.

Prefixes

<u>un</u> lock	Prefix: un- Base word: lock Meaning: To open a lock Sentence: Will you unlock the door for me?
replay	Prefix: Base word: Meaning: Sentence:
pretest	Prefix: Base word: Meaning: Sentence:

Suffixes

tall <u>est</u>	Suffix: -est Base word: tall Meaning: Greatest in height Sentence: The giraffe is the tallest animal.
painful	Suffix: Base word: Meaning: Sentence:
helpless	Suffix: Base word: Meaning: Sentence:

Common Prefixes and Suffixes

Rank	Prefix	Percentage of All Prefixed Words	Suffix	Percentage of All Suffixed Words
1	un-	26%	-s, -es	31%
2	re-	14%	-ed	20%
3	in-, im-, il-, ir- (out)	11%	-ing	14%
4	dis-	7%	-ly	7%
5	en-, em-	4%	-er, -or (agent)	4%
6	non-	4%	-ion, -tion, -ation, -ition	4%
7	in-, im- (in)	3%	-able, -ible	2%
8	over-	3%	-al, -ial	1%
9	mis-	3%	-y	1%
10	sub-	3%	-ness	1%
11	pre-	3%	-ity, -ty	1%
12	inter-	3%	-ment	1%
13	fore-	3%	-ic	1%
14	de-	2%	-ous, -eous, -ious	1%
15	trans-	2%	-en	1%
16	super-	1%	-er (comparative)	1%
17	semi-	1%	-ive, -ative, -tive	1%
18	anti-	1%	-ful	1%
19	mid-	1%	-less	1%
20	under- (too little)	1%	-est	1%
	All others	3%		7%