

Most Commonly-Used Prefixes

This list, compiled by White, Sowell, and Yanagihara (*The Reading Teacher*, 42, p. 306), has the twenty most frequently-used prefixes. In fact these prefixes make up 97% of all prefixed words.

<u>Rank/Prefix</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
1. un	not
2. re	again
3. in, im, il, ir	not
4. dis away	from
5. en, em	in
6. non	not
7. in, im	in
8. over	above
9. mis	not
10. sub	under
11. pre	before
12. inter	between
13. fore	in front
14. de apart	from
15. trans	across
16. super	above
17. semi	half
18. anti	against
19. mid	middle
20. under	too little

Frequently-Used Roots

<u>Root</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Origin</u>	<u>Example</u>
aud	hear	Latin	auditorium
mis	send	Latin	mission
astro	star	Greek	astrology
ped	foot	Latin	pedal
bio	life	Greek	biology
phon	sound	Greek	telephone
dict	say	Latin	predict
port	carry	Latin	import
geo	earth	Greek	geography
scrib, scrip	write	Latin	scribble, scripture
meter	measure	Greek	thermometer
min	little, small	Latin	minimum
spect	see	Latin	inspect
mit, mis	send	Latin	transmit, mission
struct	build, form	Latin	instruct

Adapted from Stahl, S.A. and Shiel, T.G., *Reading and Writing Quarterly: Overcoming Learning Disabilities*, 8, 223-241

Most Commonly-Used Suffixes

<u>Suffix</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Examples</u>
_s, _es	plural or verb tense	cats, pushes
_ed	past verb tense, past participle	helped, had helped
_ing	verb tense or noun form indicating on-going action	was going, listening
_ly	how, when, where, or under what conditions	slowly
_er, _or	one who	writer, actor
_er	comparative adjective	bigger
_tion, _ion, _sion, _ition, _ation	the process or act of	notion, onion, tension, partition, decoration
_able, _ible	able to be	comparable, invisible
_al, _ial	related to	mortal, partial
_y	consisting of or inclined toward	rainy
_ness	state, quality, condition, degree	brightness

This list was adapted from the research compiled by Cooper 2000.