

Common Prefixes	Definition	Example
ab-, abs-	away, from	absent, abduct
ad-	to, toward	advertise, adhere
bi-	two	bicycle, binocular
circum-	around	circumference, circuit
co-, com-, con-, col-	with, together	collect, community
de-	opposite, from, away	devalue, deactivate
di-, dif-, dis-	apart, not	disable, different
e-, ex-	out, from	exit, eject
in-	in	income, inject
in-, im-	not	indirect, immovable
inter-	between, among	interstate, intercede
mis-	wrong	Misspell, misfortune
multi-	many	multimedia, multicultural
non-	not	nonviolent, nonstick
pre-	before	preview, predict
pro-	forward	promote, progress
re-	again	resume, return
sub-	under	subway, submarine
super-	above, beyond	supernatural, superlative
tri-	three	tricycle, trifold
trans-	cross, beyond	transmit, transform
un-	not, opposite of	unkind, unfair
uni-	one	unicycle, unicorn

Common Roots	Definition	Example
cred	believe	credible, credential
duc, duct	to lead	conduct, introduce
graph	write, draw	autograph, graphic
metr, meter	measure	symmetry, centimeter
photo/phos	light	photograph, phosphorous
port	carry	portable, transport
scrib, script	to write	transcribe, prescription
spec, spect	to see, to look	aspect, inspection
therm	heat	thermometer, thermal
vid, vis	to see	video, television
Common Suffixes	Definition	Example
-able, -ible	able to, is, can	affordable, sensible
-er, -or	one who does	teacher, competitor
-er	more	funnier, heavier
-est	the most	funniest, heaviest
-ful	full of	helpful, hopeful
-less	without	helpless, hopeless,
-ness	state or condition of	kindness, brightness
-ous, -eous, -ious	having qualities of, full of	courageous, gracious

Additional Resources

[Kelly Gallagher's 30-15-10 List](#)

[The Latin Greek Connection: Building Vocabulary Through Morphological Study](#) -

Timothy Rasinski, Nancy Padak, Joanna Newton, Evangeline Newton

See list of recommended Latin and Greek Roots and Affixes on pg. 17 - 18.

[Prefix-Suffix-Root List by Grade Level](#) - Duval Co. Public Schools, Florida

[Prefix-Suffix-Root List by Grade Level 2019-2020](#)

Ellery, V., & Rosenboom, J.L. (2011). *Sustaining strategic readers: Techniques for supporting content literacy in grades 6-12*. Newark, DE: International Reading Association. Retrieved from

<https://www.readwritethink.org/sites/default/files/content-area-roots.pdf>

In this chart we make suggestions about where/when to introduce certain prefixes, roots, and suffixes. This is not an exhaustive list, nor is there a definitive list of grade-level introduction, but this list attempts to give some delineation based on multiple sources ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)). Ellery & Rosenboom (2011), published a more comprehensive list, but it is important to remember that students need to routinely interact with the affixes and roots as part of their vocabulary development routine in order to develop mastery. An analysis of grade-level content and vertical alignment would be useful to further refine where/when to introduce prefixes, roots, and suffixes into your particular curriculum based on the content being taught. We DO NOT recommend introducing affixes and roots out of context, but rather, they should align with the content curriculum.

Common Prefixes	Definition	Example
Second Grade		
re-	again	reread, return
un-	not, opposite of	unkind, unfair
Third Grade		
di-, dif-, dis-	apart, not	disable, different
in-	in	income, inject
pre-	before	preview, predict
Fourth Grade		
bi-	two	bicycle, binocular
circum-	around (4th grade mathematics)	circumference, circuit
de-	opposite, from, away	devalue, deform
non-	not	nonviolent, nonstick
pro-	forward	promote, progress
tri-	three	tricycle, trifold
under-	too little, below	underground, underfed
Fifth Grade (note the inclusion of mathematics based prefixes)		

cent-	one hundred (100)	century
centi-	one hundredth (1/100)	centimeter
deca-	ten (10)	decade, decathlon
deci-	tenth (1/10)	decimal, decimeter
in-, im-	not	indirect, immovable
inter-	between, among	interstate, intercede
kilo-	one thousand (1000)	kilogram, kilowatt
mille-,	one thousand (1000)	millennium
milli-	one thousandth (1/1000)	millimeter
mis-	wrong	misspell, misfortune
multi-	many	multimedia, multicultural
semi-	half	semicircle, semicolon
sub-	under	subway, submarine
super-	above, beyond	supernatural, superlative
Sixth Grade		
ad-	to, toward	advertise, adhere
auto-	self	autobiography, automatic
bio-	life	biology, biography
di-, dia-	two, through, across	diameter, dialogue, diagonal
e-, ex-	out, from	exit, eject
micro-	small, minute	microbiology, microscope
trans-	cross, beyond	transmit, transform
uni-	one	unicycle, unicorn
Seventh Grade		
a-, ab-, abs-	away, from	absent

ante-	before, in front of	antecedent, antebellum
co-, com-, con-, col-	with, together	collect, community
intra-	within	Intrastate,
mega-	great, huge	megabyte, megaphone
post-	after, following	postpone, postwar
pro-	forward, before	proceed, prohibit
Eighth Grade		
hetero-	different/other	heterochromatic, heterogeneous
homo-	same	homogeneous, homonym
hyper-	over, above, excessive	hyperactive, hypercritical
hypo-	below, less than normal	hypothermia, hypnosis
omni-	all	omnipresent, omniscient
ultra-	beyond, extreme	ultraviolet, ultramarathon

Common Suffixes	Definition	Example
First Grade		
-s, -es	plural, more than one	hats, boxes
-ing	action, process	helping, skipping
-ed	past tense	jumped, helped
Second Grade		
-er	person connected with, comparison	runner, bigger
-est	the most	biggest, coldest
Third Grade		
-ful	full of	helpful, hopeful
-less	without	helpless, hopeless
-y, -ly	characteristic of	quickly, fishy
Fourth Grade		
-er, -or	one who	teacher, competitor
-ness	state or condition of	doneness, brightness
-ion, -tion, -sion	act or state or result of	attention, vision, invitation
Fifth Grade		
-able, -ible	able to, is, can	likable, sensible
-ism	act, belief, practice of	patriotism, idealism
-ology, -logy	the science or study of	biology, technology
Sixth Grade		
-al, -ial	related to, characterized by	colonial, dental
-dom	condition of	freedom, boredom
-ish	related to, characteristic	childish, foolish
-hood	the state or condition	boyhood, likelihood

Common Suffixes by Grade Level

Seventh Grade		
-ous, -eous, ious	having qualities of, full of	courageous, gracious
-ive, -itive, -ative	inclined or tending toward an action	talkative, sensitive
-ic	relating to	historic, energetic
-ize	to make, to cause to occur	fertilize, criticize
Eighth Grade		
-ary	relating to, place where	dictionary, infirmary
-cide	kill	germicide, pesticide
-ium	chemical element or group	helium, aquarium
-tude	condition, state, quality of	altitude, gratitude

Common Roots	Definition	Example
Fifth Grade		
graph	write, draw	autograph, graphic
meter, metr	measure	diameter, odometer
phobia, phobic, phobe	irrational fear or hatred, one who fears	aquaphobia, claustrophobic
port	carry	portable, transport
scrib, script	to write	transcribe, prescription
spec, spect	to see, to look	aspect, inspection
Sixth Grade		
aqu	water	aquamarine, aquarium
aud	to hear or listen	audience, auditory
duc, duct	to lead	conduct, introduce
geo	earth	geography, geology
phon	voice, sound	telephone, symphony
scope	to watch, see	microscope, telescope
therm	heat	thermometer, thermal
Seventh Grade		
aer, aero	air	aerial, aerospace
leg, lect, lig	law, to choose, to read, to speak	legend, legal, intelligent, elect
opt	eye, to make a choice	optometry, optional
ped, pod	foot	pedal, podiatry
temp	time	temporary, temperature
urb	city	urban, suburban

Eighth Grade		
cred	believe	credible, creed
dict	speak, say	dictate, predict
fac, fact	do, make	factory, artifact
mar	sea	maritime, submarine
mort	death	mortal, morgue
vid, vis	to see	video, television