

## Prefix and Suffix Challenge

A **prefix** is letters added to the **beginning** of a word which changes the word's meaning e.g.

The action **replay** showed that it was a foul.

A **suffix** is letters added to the **end** of a word which can change the function (or what the word does) of a word e.g.

Which **players** are in the current Manchester City squad?

The **stem** is the main part of the word:

un + **fair** + ness

prefix stem suffix

### 1. Finding prefixes

Write out the following words and underline the **prefixes**.

disobey supermarket defrost uncaring inability

### 2. Finding suffixes

Write out the following words and underline the **suffixes**.

Sadness laughable playing helpful enjoyment

### 3. Making antonyms using the prefix **un-**. An antonym is the opposite meaning of the word you started with. Using the prefix un- is the easiest way to make an antonym. Think of ten words that use the prefix un-, then find the opposite words without the prefix e.g.

unhappy happy

### 4. What do **suffixes** do? How do they change the function of a stem?

Some of the most important suffixes in English are: **-ing, -ed, -d**. What do you think that these suffixes do to the stems? Use the examples below to help you.

wash washing washed  
love loving loved

5. In the sentences below, a number of stems appear in brackets. For the sentences to make sense, the stems need either prefixes or suffixes added to them. Some will need both. Write out the complete sentences using the correct forms of the words.
- She (**decide**) that it was time to stop (**believe**) everything he told her.
  - (**Fortunate**), Rashid (**slip**) on the wet floor, fell (**heavy**) to the ground and broke his arm.
  - It was very (**kind**) of you to shout at Joshua like that especially when he (**help**) you so much yesterday.
  - What a sight! She was (**wear**) the most (**outrage**) orange trousers you've ever seen, with a (**repulsive**) purple top.
  - (**Prolong**) exposure to the sun without (**protect**) can result in (**harm**) sunburn, with the risk of (**contract**) skin cancer.
6. Complete the table adding the correct prefix from the clues in the table.

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLES
	from, down, away reverse, opposite	decode, decrease
	not, opposite, reverse, away	disagree, disappear
	out of, away from, lacking, former	exhale, explosion
	not	illegal, illogical
	not, without	impossible, improper
	not, without	inaction, invisible
	bad, wrong	mislead, misplace
	not	nonfiction, nonsense
	before	prefix, prehistory
	for, forward, before	proactive, profess, program
	again, back	react, reappear
	against, not, opposite	undo, unequal, unusual

7. Complete the table adding the correct suffix from the clues in the table.

SUFFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLES
-able	able to, having the quality of	comfortable, portable
-al	relating to	annual, comical
-er	comparative	bigger, stronger
-est	superlative	strongest, tiniest
-ful	full of	beautiful, grateful
-ible	forming an adjective	reversible, terrible
-ily	forming an adverb	eerily, happily, lazily
-ing	denoting an action, a material, or a gerund	acting, showing
-less	without, not affected by	friendless, tireless
-ly	forming an adjective	clearly, hourly
-ness	denoting a state or condition	kindness, wilderness
-y	full of, denoting a condition, or a diminutive	glory, messy, victory