

The most important prefixes to learn

Rank	Prefix	Meaning	Percentage of all prefixes	Examples	Non-examples
1	un-	not	26	unfair, undo, undecided, unthinkable	uncle, under, unison
2	re-	again	14	restart, reboot, redo, rewrite, recreate	remain, reason, reading, restaurant
3	in-, im-, il-, ir-	not	11	inedible, impossible, illegible, illegal, irrelevant	ink, internet, imperial, Ilford, Irish, iron
4	dis-	not	7	disappear, disband	dish, distance, discuss
5	non-	not	4	non-smoker, nonsense, non-disposable	none
6	in-	in, within	4	inbred, income	inch

The most important suffixes to learn

Rank	Suffix	Meaning	Percentage of all suffixes	Examples	Non-examples
1	-s, -es	More than one or marks present tense	31	cats, fishes, runs, hops	miss, this
2	-ed	Marks past tense	20	walked, slammed	bed, red
3	-ing	Marks present tense	14	eating, singing	ring, thing
4	-ly	Adverb	7	slowly, fiercely	sly, fly
5	-er, -or (agent)	Person who does verb	4	teacher, actor, singer, dictator, footballer	for, beer
6	-ion, -tion, -ation	Noun marker	4	dictation, emotion, repetition, circulation, immigration	potion, lotion

(Adapted from White *et al*, 2009)