

ROOT WORDS/PREFIXES/SUFFIXES

What are Root Words, Prefixes, and Suffixes?

A **root word** is a word with no prefixes or suffixes added to it. A root word is the basic element, the base, of a word.

Examples:

Stop, cry, laugh, and turn are ALL root words.

The root word of *driving* is drive.

The root word of *fearless* is fear.

The root word of *undecided* is decide.

A **prefix** is a word. Add a prefix to a root word.

Examples

rewrite – to write again.
Rewrite means to write **again**.

preheat – the prefix *pre* is added to the root word heat
Preheat means to heat **before**.

untie – the prefix *un* is added to the root word tie
Untie means to **undo** the tie.

antisocial – the prefix *anti* is added to the root word social
Antisocial means **not** social.



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A **suffix** is added to the ENDING of a root word to form a new word. Adding a **suffix** to a root word can change the meaning of that root word.

Examples:

jumped - the suffix *ed* is added to the root word jump
Jumped means to have jumped in the past

running - the suffix *ing* is added to the root word run
Running means to be running in the present.

biggest - the suffix *est* is added to the root word big
Biggest means bigger than all the rest.

smaller - the suffix *er* is added to the root word small
Smaller means being littler than something else.

A word ca

Example:

The word y



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Try This!

What is the **root word** in the word **singing**?

- a] sing
- b] ing
- c] sin
- d] singin

What is the **prefix** in the word **misguide**?

- a] mi
- b] mis
- c] de
- d] guide

What is the **suffix** in the word **larger**?

- a] la
- b] larg
- c] r
- d] er