Greek and Latin Prefixes

Prefixes are word parts that have meaning and are placed at the beginning of a word root or base word.

Many English prefixes come from Greek or Latin.

The table below lists some of the most common prefixes and their usual meanings. Common absorbed or alternate spellings are also included.

Prefix	Meaning
a-	without; not
ad- *ac-, af-, ag-, al-, an-, ap-, ar-, as-, at-	to; toward
alter-	other
ante-	came before; earlier
anti-	opposite; against
con- *col-, com-, co-, cor-	with; together
contra- *counter-	opposite; against
de-	away from; down; opposite
dis- *dif-	not; negative
en-	to put in; within
ex- *ec-, e-, ef-	out of; from; not; without
in- *il-, im-, ir- *ig- (rarely)	not; in or inside
hyper-	beyond; above
hypo-	less than; below

Prefix	Meaning
inter-	between
intra-	inside; within
macro-	large
mal-	bad; not
micro-	small
mis-	wrong; badly; not
multi-	many
non-	not
ob- *oc-, of-, op-	to; against
pan-	all
para-	near; beside
poly-	many
post-	after
pre-	before
re-	again
sub- *suc-, suf-, sup-, sur-	under; below
super- *supra-	above; over
ultra-	beyond; extreme
un-	not

Note: Letters double when the last letter of a prefix is the same as the first letter of its paired word root or base. Recognizing a prefix can help you correctly spell and interpret words.

Examples: unmentioned v. unnoticed; interview v. interrupt; adhere v. addition