

Most Common English Prefixes and Suffixes

Prefixes

20 prefixes account for 97% of all words with prefixes found in English schoolbooks, and 9 of these account for 75% of all prefixed words. Below are the most common ones:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Prefix</u>	<u>%-age of all prefixed words</u>
1	un- (not)	26
2	re- (again)	14
3	in-, im-, il-, ir- (not)	11
4	dis- (not)	7
5	en-, em- (put into)	4
6	non-, (not)	4
7	in, im- (in)	3
8	over- (excessive)	3
9	mis- (bad)	3
10	sub- (below)	3
11	pre- (before)	3
12	inter- (between)	3
13	fore- (earlier)	3
14	de- (reverse)	2
15	trans-(across)	2
16	super- (above)	1
17	semi- (half)	1
18	anti- (opposite)	1
19	mid- (middle)	1
20	under- (too little)	1

Suffixes

Noun Suffixes		
<i>Suffix</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Example</i>
-acy	state or quality	privacy, fallacy , delicacy
-al	act or process of	refusal, recital, rebuttal
-ance, -ence	state or quality of	maintenance, eminence, assurance
-dom	place or state of being	freedom, kingdom, boredom
-er, -or	one who	trainer, protector, narrator
-ism	doctrine, belief	communism, narcissism, skepticism
-ist	one who	chemist, narcissist, plagiarist
-ity, -ty	quality of	inactivity, veracity, parity, serenity
-ment	condition of	argument , endorsement, punishment
-ness	state of being	heaviness, sadness, rudeness, testiness
-ship	position held	fellowship, ownership, kinship, internship
-sion, -tion	state of being	concession , transition , abbreviation
Verb Suffixes		
-ate	become	regulate, eradicate, enunciate, repudiate
-en	become	enlighten, awaken, strengthen
-ify, -fy	make or become	terrify, satisfy, rectify, exemplify
-ize, -ise*	become	American: finalize, realize, emphasize, standardize, civilize, humanize, socialize, valorize British: finalise, realise, emphasise, standardise etc.
Adjective Suffixes		
-able, -ible	capable of being	edible, presentable, abominable, credible
-al	pertaining to	regional, grammatical , emotional, coastal
-esque	reminiscent of	picturesque, statuesque, burlesque
-ful	notable for	fanciful, resentful, woeful, doubtful
-ic, -ical	pertaining to	musical, mythic, domestic, chiastic
-ious, -ous	characterized by	nutritious, portentous, studious
-ish	having the quality of	fiendish, childish, snobbish
-ive	having the nature of	creative, punitive, divisive, decisive
-less	without	endless, ageless, lawless, effortless
-y	characterized by	sleazy, hasty, greasy, nerdy, smelly

Sources: Prefix list: Thanks to Paula Barnard.

Suffix list from <https://www.thoughtco.com/common-suffixes-in-english-1692725>