

Name _____

Date _____

Language – prefixes

Reading/discussion

What are prefixes? Actually the word prefix has a prefix itself: we can break the word into two parts – pre and fix. **Pre** means **before** and fix means **attach** or **join**. So prefixes are attached before a word or word **stem** to give us more information. Let's look at a couple of examples:

Sub is a prefix meaning under. Sub + marine = submarine (under the ocean).

Circum is a prefix meaning around. Circum + navigate = circumnavigate (navigate around).

You can see that knowing the meaning of the prefix helps you understand the meaning of the word.

Sometimes we leave a letter, or letters off the end of either the word or prefix to make the word easier to read and speak. For instance, **anti** means against or opposite, so Antarctic means opposite the Arctic. Antarctic is much easier to say than Antiarctic (try it!) so the 'i' is left out of the word.

Here some more common prefixes with their meanings:

Prefix	meaning	Prefix + word stem
Co –	With	Copilot; codriver
Dis –	Not	Disable; disappear
En –	Put into	Enable; enact
Inter –	Between	Interchange; interlock
Omni -	All	Omnibus; omnivore
Trans –	Across	Transatlantic; transcribe
Un -	Not	Unkind; unnecessary

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Activities:

A. Pair up

Prepare a number of word/word stems and prefixes. Pin the words to half of the children in the class and the prefixes to the other half. Now let the children walk around the classroom until they find a classmate with whom they can pair to make a word consisting of prefix and word stem.

B. Writing them down

When each pair has called out their word hand out worksheets on which the word stems and prefixes have been mixed up and ask them to combine them again to form words, crossing out the ones they have used as they go along. The first one has been done for you.

Word stems	Prefixes	Words
Active	Ab	Unicorn
Appear	Anti	
Circle	Auto	
Corr	Dis	
Cycle	Hyper	
Form	Im	
Kind	Micro	
Normal	Mis	
Pilot	Multi	
Port	Natural	
Purpose	Per	
Scope	Semi	
Septic	Tri	
Super	Un	
Take	Uni	

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Answer Sheet

Activity A

See Activity B and the examples in the reading.

Activity B

Word stems	Prefixes	Words
Active	Ab	Unicorn
Appear	Anti	Tricycle
Circle	Auto	Autopilot
Corn	Dis	Disappear
Cycle	Hyper	Hyperactive
Form	Im	Semicircle
Kind	Micro	Microscope
Normal	Mis	Unkind
Pilot	Multi	Import
Port	Natural	Abnormal
Purpose	Per	Mistake
Scope	Semi	Antiseptic
Septic	Tri	Multipurpose
Super	Un	Perform
Take	Uni	Supernatural