LEXICOLOGY AND PHRASEOLOGY: SUFFIXES AND PREFIXES

The lexical affixes and word elements listed below are taken from the websites of *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* <http://www.oxfordadvancedlearnersdictionary.com/>, *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* <http://www.ldoceonline.com/>, *Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/Default.asp?dict=CALD>, *Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners* <http://www.macmillandictionary.com/> and *Merriam-Webster’s Learner’s Dictionary* <http://learnersdictionary.com/>. Only those affixes are listed here that can be found in the readings taken from *Word Structure* and *Vocabulary*. NOTE: Some of the items are word elements rather than affixes.

**a-**

prefix

(in nouns, adjectives and adverbs) not; without

*atheist atypical asexually*

**a** prefix**_20__EB_**

1 in a particular condition or way:

*aloud*

*alive* (=living)

*with nerves all a-tingle* (=tingling)

2 old use in, to, at, or on something:

*abed* (=in bed)

*afar* (=far away)

--- [not in Cambridge]

**a-**

prefix British English pronunciation: a- /ə/ British English pronunciation: a- /eɪ/

1. without or not: used with some adjectives and adverbs

*asexual* (=not sexual)

*atypically* (=not typically)

1 **a**-

**Pronounced:**

/ə/

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** on **:** in **:** at ▪ *abed*   
2 **:** in (such) a state or condition ▪ *afire*   
3 **:** in (such) a manner ▪ *aloud*   
4 old-fashioned **:** in the act or process of ▪ *gone a-hunting* [=gone hunting]

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**-able, -ible** suffix (in adjectives)

1 that can or must be

*calculable*

*taxable*

2 having the quality of

*fashionable*

*comfortable*

*changeable*

**-able** suffix also -**ible** [in adjectives]

1 that you can do something to

*washable* (=it can be washed)

*unbreakable* (=it cannot be broken)

*loveable* (=easy to love)

2 having a particular quality or condition

*knowledgeable* (=knowing a lot)

*comfortable*

-**ible**_20__C2b_CAl_ [in adjectives]

another form of the suffix -**able**:

*irresistible*

*visible*

**-able** suffix **(CAN BE)** (also **ible**)

added to verbs to form adjectives which mean able to receive the action of the stated verb

*breakable*

*washable*

*moveable*

**-able** *suffix* **(WORTH BEING)** (also **ible**)

added to verbs to form adjectives which mean worth receiving the action of the stated verb

*an admirable person*

*an acceptable answer*

**-ible** *suffix*(also -**able**)

used to form adjectives meaning 'able to be'

*convertible*

*accessible*

*permissible*

-**able** suffix

**1** used with many verbs to make adjectives describing something that can be done:  
*enjoyable* (=that people can enjoy)  
*breakable* (=that is easy to break)

**2** used with some nouns to make adjectives describing a quality something or someone has:  
*knowledgeable*  
*comfortable*

-**able** also -**ible**

**Function:**

adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** fit for or worthy of being ▪ *lovable ▪ collectible*

2 **:** likely to or capable of ▪ *breakable ▪ perishable*

3 **:** having a certain quality ▪ *knowledgeable ▪ peaceable*

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-**age** suffix (in nouns)

1 the action or result of

*breakage*

2 a state or condition of

*bondage*

3 a set or group of

*baggage*

4 an amount of

*mileage*

5 the cost of

*postage*

6 a place where

*anchorage*

--- [not in Longman]

**-age** *suffix* (**ACTION** )

used to form nouns which refer to the action or result of something

*blockage*

*shrinkage*

*wastage*

*All breakages must be paid for.*

**-age** *suffix* **(STATE)**   
used to form nouns which refer to a state or condition  
*bondage*   
*marriage*   
*shortage*

**-age** *suffix* **(PLACE)**   
used to form nouns which are names of places  
*orphanage*   
*vicarage*

--- [not in Macmillan]

-**age**

**Pronounced:**

/ɪʤ/

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** action, process, or result of ▪ *coverage ▪ breakage ▪ wastage*

2 **:** total amount or collection ▪ *mileage ▪ acreage*

3 **:** house or place of ▪ *orphanage ▪ brokerage*

4 **:** state, status, or condition of ▪ *bondage ▪ blockage*

5 **:** fee or charge ▪ *postage*

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**agro**- (also **agri**-) combining form (in nouns, adjectives and adverbs) connected with farming: *agro-industry · agriculture*

**agro**- prefix also **agri**- relating to farming

*agrobiology*

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

--- [not in Merriam-Webster’s]

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-**al** [although not shown in dictionaries, the form -**ial** is a variant of this suffix, e.g. *ministerial*]

-**al** suffix

1 (in adjectives)

connected with

*magical*

*verbal* see also [-ally](http://www.oxfordadvancedlearnersdictionary.com/dictionary/ally_3)

2 (in nouns)

a process or state of

*survival*

--- [not in Longman]

**-al** *suffix*   
used to add the meaning 'connected with' to adjectives, or 'the action of' to nouns:   
*medical* (= connected with medicine)   
*approval* (= the act of approving)

--- [not in Macmillan]

1 -**al**

**Function:**

adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** of, relating to, or characterized by ▪ *directional ▪ fictional ▪ operational*

2 -**al**

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** action **:** process ▪ *rehearsal ▪ withdrawal*

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**-ian, -an** suffix

1 (in nouns and adjectives)

from; typical of

*Bostonian*

*Brazilian*

*Shakespearian*

*Libran*

2 (in nouns)

a specialist in

*mathematician*

**-an** suffix also -**ean -ian**

1 [in adjectives and nouns] someone or something of, from, or connected with a particular thing, place, or person

*suburban*

*Jamesian*

2 [in nouns] someone skilled in or studying a particular subject

*a historian* (=someone who studies history)

**-an** *suffix*(also -**ean** , also -**ian**)

connected with or belonging to the stated place, group or type

*an American*

*a Canadian*

*a Korean*

*a Christian*

*Russian literature*

*Italian opera*

--- [not in Macmillan]

1 -**an** or -**ian** also -**ean**

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** someone or something that belongs to ▪ *American* [=a person who lives in or is from America] ▪ *Bostonian* [=a person who lives in or is from Boston]

2 -**an** or -**ian** also -**ean**

**Function:**

adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** of or belonging to ▪ *American*   
2 **:** characteristic of **:** resembling ▪ *Herculean* [=resembling Hercules] ▪ *Mozartean* [=characteristic of or resembling Mozart]

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**-ance, -ence** suffix

(in nouns) the action or state of

*assistance*

*confidence*

**-ance,** -**ence** suffix [in nouns]

the action, state, or quality of doing something or of being something

*his sudden appearance* (=he appeared suddenly)

*her brilliance* (=she is brilliant)

**-ence** **(ACTION)**, **-ance** *suffix*   
used to form nouns which refer to an action or series of actions:   
*violence* (= violent actions)   
*a performance* (= act of performing)

**-ence** **(STATE)**, **-ance** *suffix*   
used to form nouns which describe a state or quality:   
*her long absence* (= period during which she was absent)

--- [not in Macmillan]

-**ance**

**Pronounced:**

/əns/

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** the action or process of doing something ▪ *avoidance ▪ performance ▪ acceptance*

-**ence**

**Pronounced:**

/əns/

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** the state of having a particular quality ▪ *confidence ▪ dependence ▪ despondence*   
2 **:** the action or process of doing something ▪ *emergence ▪ reference ▪ reminiscence*

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(gynec)**andry**

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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-**ant, -ent** suffix

1 (in adjectives)

that is or does something

*significant*

*different*

2 (in nouns)

a person or thing that

*inhabitant*

*deterrent*

-**ant**, -**ent** suffix [in nouns and adjectives]

someone or something that does something

*a servant* (=someone who serves others)

*disinfectant* (=substance for killing germs)

*expectant* (=expecting)

*pleasant* (=pleasing)

**-ant** suffix /-ənt/ (also **-ent**)

(a person or thing) performing or causing the stated action:   
*assistant*   
*participant*   
*disinfectant*   
*an expectant look*   
*a defiant child*

--- [not in Macmillan]

1 -**ant**

**Pronounced:**

/ənt/

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** a person or thing that does a specified thing ▪ *assistant ▪ attendant ▪ immigrant ▪ coolant ▪ pollutant*

2 -**ant**

**Function:**

adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** doing a specified thing or behaving in a specified way ▪ *propellant ▪ hesitant ▪ observant*

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**arch-**

combining form

(in nouns)

main; most important or most extreme

*archbishop*

*arch-enemy*

**arch**- prefix

belonging to the highest class or rank

*an archbishop* (=an important bishop)

*our archenemy* (=our worst enemy)

*the company's arch-rivals* (=main competitors)

**arch-** *prefix* **(MAIN)**   
most important:   
*an archbishop*   
*an archduke*

**arch-** *prefix* **(EXTREME)**   
greater or especially worse than others of the same type:   
*an arch-criminal*   
*his arch-enemy*   
*He's always been an arch-opponent of the scheme.*

**arch**- prefix

main: used with some nouns:  
*archenemy*  
*archbishop*

**arch**-

**Pronounced:**

/ˌɑɚtʃ/

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** main or chief ▪ *archenemy ▪ archbishop ▪ archrival*   
2 **:** extreme ▪ *archconservative*

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-**ate** suffix   
1 (in adjectives)

full of or having the quality of

*passionate*

*Italianate*

2 (in verbs)

to give the thing or quality mentioned to

*hyphenate*

*activate*

3 (in nouns)

the status or function of

*a doctorate*

4 (in nouns)

a group with the status or function of

*the electorate*

5 (chemistry) (in nouns)

a salt formed by the action of a particular acid

*sulphate*

-**ate** suffix   
1 [in adjectives] full of or showing a particular quality

*affectionate* (=showing love)

2 [in verbs] to make something have a particular quality

*activate* (=make something start working)

*regulate* (=control something or make it regular)

3 [in nouns] a group of people with particular duties

*the electorate* (=voters)

4 [in nouns] the job, rank, or degree of a particular type of person

*She was awarded her doctorate* (=PhD).

5 [in nouns] a chemical salt formed from a particular acid

*phosphate*

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

--- [not in Merriam-Webster’s]

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(sign)**ature**

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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**auto-**

combining form

(also **aut**-)

 (in nouns, adjectives and adverbs)

1 of or by yourself

*autobiography*

2 by itself without a person to operate it

*automatic*

**auto**-_20__E9_t_EB__2C_20_2Dt_EB_20_24_A0_E3_to__2C_20_2Dt_EB_ prefix

1 of or by yourself

*an autobiography*

2 working by itself

*a camera with an auto-focus lens*

**auto**- prefix

prefix

of or by yourself, or operating independently and without needing help

*an autofocus camera*

*an auto-immune disease*

**auto**- prefix

**1** relating to yourself: used with some nouns and adjectives:  
*his autobiography*

**2** working alone without any person being involved: used with some nouns, verbs, and adjectives:  
*an auto-loading gun*

**auto**-

**Function:**

combining form

**Meaning:**

1 **:** self **:** same one ▪ *autobiography*

2 **:** automatic **:** acting by itself ▪ *autopilot*

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**be-**

prefix

1 (in verbs)

to make or treat somebody/something as

*Don't belittle his achievements* (= say they are not important).

*An older girl befriended me*.

2 (in adjectives ending in -ed)

wearing or covered with

*heavily bejewelled fingers*

*bespattered with mud*

3 (in verbs and adjectives ending in -ed)

to cause something to be

*The ship was becalmed*. (= there was no wind so it could not move)

*The rebels besieged the fort*.

4 used to turn intransitive verbs (= without an object) into transitive verbs (= with an object)

*She is always bemoaning her lot*.

**be**- prefix

1 [in verbs] used to mean that someone or something is treated in a particular way

*Don't belittle him* (=say he is unimportant).

*He befriended me* (=became my friend)

2 literary [in adjectives] wearing or covered by a particular thing

*a bespectacled boy* (=wearing glasses)

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

**be**-

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** make **:** cause to be ▪ *befoul ▪ benumb* **:** treat as ▪ *belittle ▪ befriend*   
2 **:** about ▪ *bewail ▪ bemoan ▪ bespeak*   
3 **:** in a way that is easy to notice ▪ *bewhiskered ▪ bejeweled ▪ bespectacled*   
4 **:** thoroughly **:** very much ▪ *beloved*

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**biblio**-

combining form

(in nouns, adjectives and adverbs)

connected with books

*bibliophile*

--- [not in Longman]

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

**biblio**-

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

**:** relating to books ▪ *bibliography ▪ bibliophile*

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**bio**- combining form (in nouns, adjectives and adverbs) connected with living things or human life: *biodegradable · biography*

**bio**- prefix

relating to or using living things

*bio-genetics*

*biophysics*

**bio-** *prefix*   
connected with life and living things:   
*bioethics*  
*biodiversity*

**bio**- prefix

relating to living things or someone's life: used with some nouns and adjectives:  
*biology*  
*biography*

**bio**-

**Function:**

combining form

**Meaning:**

**:** relating to life or living things ▪ *biosphere ▪ biochemistry*

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**-bound**

in Oxford it is an adjective

in Longman it is an adjective

-**bound** suffix (DIRECTION)

/-baʊnd/ suffix

travelling in the stated direction

*Northbound traffic is moving very slowly because of the accident.*

US *The line did not close completely, but inbound and outbound trains* (= trains which were arriving and leaving) *had to share one of the two tracks near the station*.

-**bound**

1. used with some adjectives and nouns, for example place names, to make adjectives describing where someone or something is going

*a Tokyo-bound plane*

2. used with some nouns to make adjectives meaning that someone is unable to leave a place

*His mother is sick and more or less house-bound.*

*desk-bound computer operators*

a.

used with some nouns to make adjectives meaning that something prevents travel in a place

***fog/snow-bound***:*a fog-bound airport*

b.

used with some nouns to make adjectives meaning that something is preventing people from working or from doing what they want

*a strike-bound factory*

in Merriam-Webster’s it is an adjective

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**cardio-**

combining form

 (in nouns, adjectives and adverbs)

connected with the heart

*cardiogram*

**cardio**- prefix medical

relating to the heart

*a cardiograph* (=machine that measures movements of the heart)

*cardiovascular* (=the heart and the tubes through which blood flows in your body)

**cardio-** prefix (also **cardi**-)

of the heart:   
*cardiovascular*

**cardio**-

prefix medical British English pronunciation: cardio- /kɑː(r)diəʊ/

relating to the heart: used with some adjectives and nouns

*the hospital’s cardiology unit*

*cardiovascular disease*

**cardio**-

**Function:**

combining form

**Meaning:**

medical **:** heart **:** *cardiac ▪ cardiology ▪ cardiopulmonary* [=relating to the heart and the lungs]

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**counter-**

combining form

(in nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs)

1 against; opposite

*counterterrorism*

*counter-argument*

2 corresponding

*counterpart*

**counter**- prefix

1 the opposite of something

*a counterproductive thing to do* (=producing results opposite to what you wanted)

2 done or given as a reaction to something, especially to oppose it

*claims and counterclaims*

3 matching something

*my counterpart in the American system* (=someone who has the same job that I have)

**counter-** prefix

opposing or as a reaction to

*a counter-attack* (= an attack on someone who has attacked you)

**counter**- prefix

opposing: used with some nouns, adjectives, and verbs:  
*a counter-proposal*  
*an effective way to counteract global warming*  
*Their efforts have all been counterproductive.*

**counter**-

**Pronounced:**

/ˈkaʊntɚ/

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** in a direction opposite to ▪ *counterclockwise*   
2 **:** as a reaction against ▪ *counteroffensive*

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**cruci**(form)

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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(leuco)**cyte**

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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**de**- prefix   
(in verbs and related nouns, adjectives and adverbs)

1 the opposite of

*decentralization*

2 removing something

*to defrost the refrigerator* (= remove layers of ice from it)

**de**- prefix

1 shows an opposite

*deindustrialization* (=becoming less industrial)

2 shows that something is removed

*Debone the fish* (=remove its bones).

*The king was dethroned* (=removed from power).

3 shows that something is reduced

*The government have devalued the currency.*

**de-** *prefix*   
used to add the meaning 'opposite', 'remove' or 'reduce' to a noun or verb:   
*the deforestation of the rainforests*   
*the denationalization of the coal industry*   
*Once you've written a computer program, you have to debug* (= remove the errors from) *it.*

**de**- prefix

used with many verbs, nouns, and adjectives for giving a word the opposite meaning:  
*decaffeinated coffee*  
*measures that will destabilize the economy*

**de**-

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** do the opposite of ▪ *decode ▪ deactivate*

2 a **:** remove (a specified thing) from something ▪ *declaw a cat ▪ defrost a windshield* b **:** remove someone or something from something ▪ *The king was dethroned*. c **:** leave or get off something ▪ *derail ▪ deplane*

3 **:** reduce ▪ *devalue currency*

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**demo**- prefix (in nouns, adjectives and adverbs) connected with people or population: *democracy* *·* *democratic*

--- [not in Longman]

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

--- [not in Merriam-Webster’s]

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**dis**- prefix

(in adjectives, adverbs, nouns and verbs)

not; the opposite of

*dishonest*

*disagreeably*

*disadvantage*

*disappear*

**dis**- prefix

1 shows an opposite or negative

*I disapprove* (=do not approve)

*dishonesty* (=lack of honesty)

2 [in verbs] shows the stopping or removing of a condition

*Disconnect the machine*.

*Disinfect the wound*.

**dis-** *prefix*   
added to the front of some words to form their opposites   
*to disagree*   
*a dishonest person*

**dis**- prefix

used with some nouns, verbs, and adjectives for giving a word the opposite meaning:  
*dislike* (=to not like something)  
*dissimilar* (=not similar)  
*disbelief*

**dis**-

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

1 in verbs **:** to do the opposite of ▪ *disagree ▪ disappear ▪ disapprove*

2 in nouns **:** opposite or absence of ▪ *disbelief ▪ discomfort ▪ dishonor*

3 in adjectives **:** not ▪ *disagreeable ▪ disconnected ▪ disinterested*

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**down** adverb [Oxford]

**down**- prefix

1 at or towards the bottom or end of something [↪ up-]:

*downstairs*

*downriver* (=nearer to where it goes into the sea)

2 used to show that something is being made smaller or less important [↪ up-]:

*to downgrade a job* (=make it less important)

*to downsize a company* (=reduce the number of jobs in it)

3 used to show that something is bad or negative [↪ up-]:

*the downside of a situation* (=the negative part of it)

*down-market products* (=low quality products)

**down-** prefix

at or towards the end or the lower or worse part

*downhill*

*downriver*

*down-market*

*the downside*

**down**- prefix

1. lower in position, amount, quality, or importance: used with some nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs

*floating downriver*

*another dramatic downturn in sales*

**down** adverb [Merriam-Webster’s]

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**-ectomy**

combining form

(in nouns)

a medical operation in which part of the body is removed

*appendectomy* (= removal of the appendix )

-**ectomy** suffix [in nouns] technical

the removing of a particular part of someone's body by an operation

*an appendectomy* (=removing the appendix)

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

--- [not in Merriam-Webster’s]

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**-ed, -d** suffix

1 (in adjectives)

having; having the characteristics of

*talented*

*bearded*

*diseased*

2 (makes the past tense and past participle of regular verbs)

*hated*

*walked*

*loved*

**-ed** suffix

1 forms the regular past tense and past participle of verbs. The past participle form is often used as an adjective

*I want, I wanted, I have wanted*

*I show, I showed, I have shown*

*He walked away.*

*a sound that echoed through the room*

*a wanted criminal*

2 [in adjectives] having a particular thing

*a bearded man* (=a man with a beard)

*a kind-hearted woman*

**-ed** *suffix* (ALSO **-d**)   
used to form the past simple and past participle of regular verbs:   
*called*   
*asked*   
*looked*   
*started*   
*played*   
*returned*   
*worked*

--- [not in Macmillan]

-**ed**

**Pronounced:**

/əd, ɪd after t or d; t after p, k, tʃ, f, θ, s, or ʃ; d elsewhere; exceptions are pronounced at their entries/

**Function:**

verb suffix or adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

1 —used to form the past tense and past participle of regular verbs ▪ *It ended. ▪ It has ended. ▪ clapped ▪ tried ▪ patted*

2 **:** having **:** characterized by ▪ *domed ▪ cultured ▪ two-legged ▪ blue-eyed*

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(com)**edy**

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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-**ee**

suffix

(in nouns)

1 a person affected by an action

*employee* compare -er, -or

2 a person described as or concerned with

*absentee*

*refugee*

-**ee** [in nouns]

1 someone who is being treated in a particular way:

*the payee* (=someone who is paid)

*a trainee*

*an employee*

2 someone who is in a particular state or who is doing something:

*an absentee* (=someone who is absent)

*an escapee*

-**ee** suffix ( OBJECT )

added to a verb to form a noun which refers to the person who the action of the verb is being done to

*an employee* (= someone who is employed)

*the payee* (= a person who money is paid to)

*an interviewee* (= someone who is being interviewed for a job)

-**ee** suffix ( CONDITION )

added to an adjective, noun or verb to refer to a person who is in that condition or state

*a refugee* (= someone who has taken refuge)

*an escapee* (= someone who has escaped)

-**ee** suffix

1 used with some verbs to make nouns meaning someone who is affected by an action

*a trainee*

*an employee*

2 used with some verbs to make nouns meaning someone who performs an action

*an escapee*

-**ee** /i/ noun suffix

1 **:** a person who gets or is affected by a specified action or thing   
*▪ appointee ▪ trainee*

2 **:** a person who does a specified action   
*▪ escapee ▪ standee*

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**en**- (also **em**- before b, m or p) prefix

(in verbs)

1 to put into the thing or condition mentioned

*encase*

*endanger*

*empower*

2 to cause to be

*enlarge*

*embolden*

**en**- prefix [in verbs]

1 to make someone or something be in a particular state or have a particular quality

*enlarge* (=make something bigger)

*endanger* (=put someone in danger)

2 to go completely around something, or include all of it

*encircle* (=surround everything)

**en-** *prefix* BEFORE B OR P **em-**

**1** used to form verbs which mean to put into or onto something:   
*encase*   
*encircle*   
*endanger*

**2** used to form verbs which mean to cause to be something:   
*enable*   
*endear*   
*enlarge*   
*enrich*

**3** used to form verbs which mean to provide with something:   
*empower*

--- [not in Macmillan]

**en**- also **em**-

**Pronounced:**

/ɪn/ /ɪm/

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

◊In all senses em- is usually used before words starting with b, m, or p.

1 **:** to put into or onto ▪ *encode ▪ endanger ▪ enthrone ▪ embed*

2 **:** to cause to be ▪ *enrich ▪ enslave*

3 **:** to provide with ▪ *empower ▪ embody*

4 **:** to cover with ▪ *enshroud*

5 **:** thoroughly ▪ *ensnare ▪ entangle*

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-**en** suffix

1 (in verbs) to make or become

*blacken*

*sadden*

2 (in adjectives) made of; looking like

*wooden*

*golden*

-**en** suffix

1 [in adjectives] made of a particular material or substance

*a golden crown*

*wooden seats*

2 [in verbs] to make something have a particular quality

*darken* (=make or become dark)

*strengthen* (=make or become stronger)

**-en** suffix

used to form verbs which mean to increase the stated quality

*Sweeten to taste with honey or brown sugar.*

*I've had to loosen my belt.*

--- [not in Macmillan]

1 -**en**

**Pronounced:**

/ən/

**Function:**

adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** made of **:** consisting of ▪ *earthen ▪ woolen*

2 -**en**

**Function:**

verb suffix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** to become or cause to be ▪ *sharpen ▪ whiten ▪ sadden ▪ broaden*   
2 **:** to cause or come to have ▪ *lengthen ▪ strengthen*

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

-**er** suffix

1 (in nouns)

a person or thing that

*lover*

*computer* compare [-ee](http://www.oxfordadvancedlearnersdictionary.com/dictionary/ee), [-or](http://www.oxfordadvancedlearnersdictionary.com/dictionary/or_2)

2 (in nouns)

a person or thing that has the thing or quality mentioned

*three-wheeler*

*foreigner*

3 (in nouns)

a person concerned with

*astronomer*

*philosopher*

4 (in nouns)

a person belonging to

*New Yorker*

5 (makes comparative adjectives and adverbs)

*wider*

*bigger*

*happier*

*sooner*

-**or** suffix

(in nouns) a person or thing that

*actor*

-**er** suffix [in nouns]

1 someone who does something or is doing something

*a dancer*

*a driver*

2 something that does something

*a scraper* (=a tool you use for scraping)

ￚsee also -ar, -or

-**ar** suffix

1 [in adjectives] relating to something

*stellar* (=relating to stars)

*polar* (=relating to the North or South Pole)

2 [in nouns] someone who does something

*a liar* (=someone who lies)

-**or** suffix [in nouns]

1 someone who does something or is doing something

*an actor* (=someone who acts)

*an inventor*

*a translator*

2 something that does something

*a calculator* (=a machine which calculates)

*a word processor*

ￚsee also –er2 , -ar

**-er** suffix (**PERFORMER** )

(also -**or**) added to some verbs to form nouns which refer to people or things that do that particular activity

*a singer* (= a person who sings)

*a swimmer* (= a person who swims)

*a dishwasher* (= a machine or person that washes dishes)

*an actor* (= a person who acts)

**-er** *suffix* **(SPECIALIST)**   
added to the names of particular subjects to form nouns which refer to people who have knowledge about or are studying that subject  
*a philosopher* (= a person who knows about/studies philosophy)   
*an astronomer* (= a person who knows about/studies astronomy)

**-er** *suffix* **(FROM A PLACE)**   
added to the names of particular places to form nouns referring to people who come from those places  
*a Londoner* (= a person who comes from London)   
*a northerner* (= a person who comes from the north)

**-er** *suffix* **(INVOLVED WITH)**   
added to nouns or adjectives to form nouns referring to people who are connected or involved with that particular thing  
*a pensioner* (= a person who receives a pension)   
*first graders* (= children who are in the first grade of an American school)

**-er** *suffix* **(CHARACTERISTICS)**   
added to nouns to form nouns or adjectives referring to people or things which have those particular characteristics:   
*a double-decker* (= a bus with two decks)   
*a big-spender* (= someone who spends a lot of money)

--- [not in Macmillan]

2 -**er** also -**ier** or -**yer**

**Pronounced:**

/ɚ/ /iɚ, jɚ/ /jɚ/

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

1 a **:** person having a particular job ▪ *hatter ▪ furrier ▪ lawyer ▪ jailer* b **:** person or thing belonging to or associated with something ▪ *old-timer ▪ high schooler ▪ prisoner* c **:** native of **:** resident of ▪ *New Yorker ▪ cottager* d **:** thing that has ▪ *double-decker*

2 **:** person or thing that does or performs a specified action ▪ *reporter ▪ player ▪ sharpener ▪ do-gooder*

3 **:** person who is ▪ *foreigner ▪ Westerner*

-**or**

**Pronounced:**

/ɚ/

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** a person or thing that does a specified action ▪ *elevator ▪ translator*

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(south)**ern**

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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**-ery, -ry** suffix (in nouns)

1 the group or class of

*greenery*

*gadgetry*

2 the state or character of

*bravery*

*rivalry*

3 the art or practice of

*cookery*

*archery*

4 a place where something is made, grows, lives, etc

*bakery*

*orangery*

**-ery** suffix also -**ry** (in nouns)

1 a quality or condition

*bravery* (=the quality of being brave)

*slavery* (=the condition of being a slave)

2 things of a particular kind

*machinery* (=different types of machines)

*all her finery* (=beautiful clothes)

3 a place where a particular activity happens

*a bakery* (=where bread is baked)

*an oil refinery*

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

-**ery**

**Pronounced:**

/əri/

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** qualities considered as a group **:** character ▪ *snobbery*

2 **:** place of doing, keeping, producing, or selling (something) ▪ *fishery ▪ bakery*

3 **:** collection ▪ *finery*

4 **:** state or condition ▪ *slavery*

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**-ese**

suffix

1 (in adjectives and nouns)

of a country or city; a person who lives in a country or city; the language spoken there

*Chinese*

*Viennese*

2 (in nouns) (often disapproving)

the style or language of

*journalese*

*officialese*

-**ese** suffix   
1 [in nouns] the people or language of a particular country or place

*the Viennese* (=people from Vienna).

*I'm learning Japanese* (=the language of Japan).

2 [in adjectives] belonging to a particular country or place

*Chinese music*

3 [in nouns] informal language or words used by a particular group, especially when it sounds ugly or is difficult to understand

*journalese* (=language used in newspapers)

*officialese* (=language used in official or legal writing)

**-ese** suffix

of a place, or the language spoken in a place

*Lebanese*

*Chinese*

--- [not in Macmillan]

--- [not in Merriam-Webster’s]

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**ex**- /eks/ prefix

(in nouns) former

*ex-wife*

*ex-president*

**ex**-

former and still living:

*his ex-wife*

*an ex-England cricketer*

**ex-** prefix

used to show that someone is no longer what they were

*ex-prisoners*

*ex-policemen*

*my ex-husband*

*my ex-girlfriend*

**Az űrlap alja**

**ex**-

prefix British English pronunciation: ex- /eks/showmore

used with nouns that describe someone’s job, rank, or relationship to someone, for showing that they no longer have that job, rank, or relationship

*Tony is an ex-boyfriend of Jane’s.*

*an ex-governor of New York*

**ex**-

**Pronounced:**

/ɛks/

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

**:** former ▪ *ex-president ▪ ex-girlfriend ▪ ex-husband*

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**-free**

-free (in adjectives) without the thing mentioned

*virtually fat-free yogurt*

*tax-free earnings*

*a trouble-free life*

-**free** suffix [in adjectives and adverbs]

without something that you do not want:

*a trouble-free journey*

*duty-free cigarettes*

*a salt-free diet*

*They live in the house rent-free.*

**-free suffix ( NO CHARGE )**

used at the end of words to mean 'without having to pay'

*They agreed to let us live there rent-free.*

*Many banks are now offering interest-free overdrafts to students.*

**-free suffix ( WITHOUT )**

used at the end of words to mean 'without'

*lead-free fuel*

*No working environment is entirely stress-free.*

*The journey was surprisingly hassle-free.*

-**free**

1. used with many nouns to make adjectives meaning without a particular thing

*foods that are almost fat-free*

*Any money you earn would be tax-free* (=you would not pay tax on it).

**free**

**Function:**

adjective

Inflected forms:

fre·er fre·est

**Meaning:**

6 **:** not having, including, or suffering from something unpleasant, painful, or unwanted —usually + from or of ▪ free from worry/disease ▪ The product is guaranteed to be free of/from major defects. ▪ The speech was free of political rhetoric. ▪ writing that is free of jargon —sometimes used in combination ▪ *jargon-free writing* ▪ *sugar-free chewing gum ▪ After struggling with her addiction for many years, she is finally drug-free.* [=she has finally stopped using drugs]

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**-ful**

suffix

1 (in adjectives) full of; having the qualities of; tending to

*sorrowful*

*masterful*

*forgetful*

2 (in nouns) an amount that fills something

*handful*

*spoonful*

-**ful** suffix [in adjectives]

1 full of something

*an eventful day*

2 having the quality of something or causing something

*restful colours*

*Is it painful?*

-**ful** suffix [in nouns]

1 the amount of a substance needed to fill a particular container

*two cupfuls of milk*

2 as much as can be carried by or contained in a particular part of the body

*an armful of flowers*

**-ful** *suffix* **(HAVING)**   
having the stated quality to a high degree, or causing it:   
*colourful*   
*powerful*   
*painful*   
*truthful*   
*beautiful*

**-ful** *suffix* **(AMOUNT)**   
the amount of something needed to fill the stated container or place:   
*a spoonful* ***of*** *sugar*   
*a mouthful* ***of*** *tea*   
*a houseful* ***of*** *people*

--- [not in Macmillan]

1 -**ful**

**Pronounced:**

/fəl/

**Function:**

adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** full of ▪ *prideful ▪ eventful*   
2 **:** characterized by ▪ *peaceful ▪ successful*   
3 **:** having the qualities of ▪ *masterful*   
4 **:** tending or likely to ▪ *forgetful ▪ helpful*

2 -**ful**

**Pronounced:**

/fʊl/

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** the number or amount that fills or would fill ▪ *a roomful ▪ a cupful ▪ a spoonful*

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**gastr**(itis)

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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**giga**-

combining form

(in nouns; used in units of measurement)

1 109, or 1000000000

*gigahertz*

2 230, or 1073741824

**giga**- prefix [in nouns]

a billion - used with units of measurement

**giga-** *prefix*   
used to form words with the meaning 1 000 000 000:   
*gigavolt*   
*gigahertz*   
*gigawatt*

**giga**-

prefix British English pronunciation: giga- /ɡɪɡə/

1 computing a billion (2): used with some nouns

*gigahertz*

2 a thousand million (10): used with some nouns

*gigawatt*

--- [not in Merriam-Webster’s]

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**gyneco**-

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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**gram** noun   
1 (British English also **gramme**) (abbr. g, gm) a unit for measuring weight. There are 1000 grams in one kilogram.

2 -gram a thing that is written or drawn

*telegram*

*hologram*

-**gram** suffix [in nouns]

a message delivered as an amusing surprise

*On his birthday we sent him a kissagram* (=a woman who was paid to give him a message and kiss him).

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

--- [not in Merriam-Webster’s]

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-**graphy** combining form (in nouns)   
1 a type of art or science: *choreography · geography*  
2 a method of producing images: *radiography*  
3 a form of writing or drawing: *calligraphy · biography*

-**graphy** suffix   
used in nouns to mean a way of making pictures or of writing

*radiography*

*photography*

*calligraphy*

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

-**graphy**

**Pronounced:**

/grəfi/

**Function:**

noun combining form

**Meaning:**

**:** a way of writing or showing something ▪ *photography ▪ cartography ▪ mammography*

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**hemi**(sphere)

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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**-hood**

suffix

(in nouns)

1 the state or quality of

*childhood*

*falsehood*

2 a group of people of the type mentioned

*the priesthood*

-**hood** suffix [in nouns]

1 used to refer to a period of time or a state

*during his childhood* (=when he was a child)

*parenthood* (=the state of being a parent)

2 the people who belong to a particular group

*the priesthood* (=all the people who are priests)

**-hood** *suffix*   
used to form nouns describing the state of being a particular thing:   
*priesthood*   
*childhood/manhood*   
*nationhood*

-**hood** suffix

used with some nouns to make nouns meaning a particular state, or period in someone's life:  
*childhood* (=the period when you are a child)  
*fatherhood* (=the state of being a father)

-**hood**

**Pronounced:**

/-ˌhʊd/

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** state **:** condition **:** quality ▪ *likelihood ▪ falsehood ▪ childhood ▪ adulthood*   
2 **:** people sharing a condition or character ▪ *brotherhood*

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**hydr(o)-**

combining form

(in nouns, adjectives and adverbs)

1 connected with water

*hydroelectricity*

2 (chemistry)

combined with hydrogen

*hydrochloric acid*

**hydr(o)-** prerfix

1 relating to water, or using water

*hydroelectricity* (=produced by water power)

*hydrotherapy* (=treatment of disease using water)

2 relating to hydrogen, or containing it

*hydrocarbons*

**hydro**- prefix (WATER )

prefix

connected with or using the power of water

*hydroponic* (= a method of growing plants in water)

**hydro-** prefix (GAS )

prefix

showing that hydrogen is present

--- [not in Macmillan]

--- [not in Merriam-Webster’s]

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**hyper-**

prefix

(in adjectives and nouns)

more than normal; too much

*hypercritical*

*hypertension*

**hyper**-_20_ha_FBp_EB_20_24_A0_2Dp_EBr_prefix

1 more than usual, especially too much:

*hypersensitive* (=too sensitive)

*hyper*-*inflation*

*a hyper-extended knee*

2 beyond the usual size or limits:

*a hyperlink* (=from one website to another)

**hyper-** prefix

having too much of the stated quality

*hyperactive*

*hypercritical*

*hypersensitive*

**hyper**- prefix

more than usual or normal: used with some adjectives and nouns to make adjectives and nouns:  
*hypersensitive*  
*hyperinflation*

**hyper**-

**Pronounced:**

/ˈhaɪpɚ/

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** excessively or extremely ▪ *hyperactive ▪ hypersensitive*   
2 **:** excessive or extreme ▪ *hypersensitivity ▪ hypertension*

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**hypo-**

prefix

(also hyp-)

(in adjectives and nouns) under; below normal

*hypodermic*

*hypothermia*

**hypo**- prefix technical

less than usual, especially too little

*hypothermia* (=condition in which your body temperature is too low)

*a hypodermic injection* (=given under the skin)

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

**hypo**-

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** under **:** beneath **:** down ▪ *hypodermic*   
2 **:** less than normal or normally ▪ *hypotension ▪ hypothermia*

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(psych)**iatry/**(psych)**iatric**

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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**-ic**

suffix

1 (in adjectives and nouns)

connected with

*scenic*

*economic*

*Arabic*

2 (in adjectives)

that performs the action mentioned

*horrific*

*specific*

-ical

(in adjectives)

*comical*

-**ic** suffix

1 [in adjectives] of, like, or related to a particular thing

*photographic* (=of photography)

*an alcoholic drink* (=containing alcohol)

*polysyllabic* (=containing several syllables)

*pelvic* (=of the pelvis)

*Byronic* (=like or connected with the poet Byron)

2 [in nouns] someone who is affected by a particular unusual condition, a mental illness for example

*an alcoholic* (=someone who cannot stop drinking alcohol)

-**ical** suffix [in adjectives]

another form of the suffix –**ic** (1)

*historical* (=of history)

*satirical*

**-ic** *suffix* (ALSO **-ical**)   
used to form adjectives:   
*scenic*   
*economic*

--- [not in Macmillan]

1 -**ic**

**Pronounced:**

/ɪk/

**Function:**

adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** having the character or form of ▪ *panoramic ▪ cherubic*

2 a **:** of or relating to ▪ *chivalric* b **:** coming from or containing ▪ *acidic*

3 **:** in the manner of **:** like that of ▪ *autocratic*

4 **:** making use of ▪ *electronic ▪ atomic*

2 -**ic**

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** someone belonging to or connected with ▪ *academic*

2 **:** someone affected by ▪ *alcoholic*

-**i·cal**

**Pronounced:**

/ɪkəl/

**Function:**

adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** 1[-ic](http://learnersdictionary.com/search/-ic%5b1%5d) ▪ *symmetrical ▪ geological*

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**-ify**

suffix

-**fy**

 (in verbs)

to make or become

*purify*

*solidify*

-**ify** suffix [in verbs] also -**fy**

1 to make something be in a particular state or condition

*to purify* (=make or become pure)

*to clarify the situation* (=make it clear)

2 to fill someone with a particular feeling

*Spiders terrify me* (=make me very afraid).

3 informal to do something in a silly or annoying way

*to speechify* (=make speeches, using important sounding words)

4 to make something or someone be like or typical of a person or group

*Frenchified* (=like the French)

**-ify**, **-fy** *suffix*   
used to form verbs meaning to cause an increase in the stated quality; to become:   
*simplify*   
*beautify*

-**ify** suffix

used with some adjectives and nouns to make verbs meaning to become or make someone or something become something:  
*classify*  
*purify*  
*pacify*  
*terrify*

-**i·fy**

**Pronounced:**

/əˌfaɪ/

**Function:**

verb suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** [-fy](http://learnersdictionary.com/search/-fy)

-**fy**

**Pronounced:**

/faɪ/

**Function:**

verb suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** cause to become ▪ *beautify ▪ purify*

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**in-**

**prefix**

**1 (also il- im- ir- )**

(in adjectives, adverbs and nouns) not; the opposite of

*infinite*

*illogical*

*immorally*

*irrelevance*

2 (also im- )

(in verbs)

to put into the condition mentioned

*inflame*

*imperil*

**in**- prefix

the opposite or lack of something

ￚsynonym not

ￚsee also **un**-, **il**-, **im**-, **ir**-

*insensitive* (=not sensitive)

*incautious* (=not cautious)

*inattention* (=lack of attention)

**il**- prefix

the form used for **in**- before l

*illogical* (=not logical)

**im**- prefix

the form used for **in**- before b, m, or p

*immobilize*

*impossible*

**ir**- prefix

used instead of **in**- before the letter r

ￚsynonym not

*irregular* (=not regular)

**in-** **(LACKING)**, BEFORE L **il-**, BEFORE B, M OR P **im-**, BEFORE R **ir-** *prefix*   
used to add the meaning 'not', 'lacking', or 'the opposite of' to adjectives and to words formed from adjectives:   
*incomplete/incompletely*   
*illegal/illegally*   
*impossible/impossibly*   
*irregular/irregularly*

**in**- prefix

not or no: used with some adjectives and nouns:  
*inoffensive*  
*inaction* (=lack of action)

**il**- prefix

not or no: used with some adjectives and nouns that begin with ‘l’ to give the opposite meaning:  
*illogical*  
*illegal*

**im**- prefix

not or no: used with some adjectives and nouns that begin with ‘b’, ‘m’, and ‘p’ to give the opposite meaning:  
*impossible*  
*impatient*  
*immature*

**ir**- prefix

not or no: used with some adjectives and nouns that begin with ‘r’ to give the opposite meaning:  
*irregularity*  
*irreplaceable*

**in**- or **il**- or **im**- or **ir**-

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

**:** not ▪ *inconclusive ▪ inaccurate ▪ illogical ▪ immoral ▪ impractical ▪ irrational*

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(bov)**ine**

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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-**ing** suffix

used to make the present participle of regular verbs

*hating*

*walking*

*loving*

-**ing** suffix

1 forms the present participle of verbs

*They're dancing.*

*to go dancing*

*a dancing bear*

2 [in uncountable nouns] the action or process of doing something

*She hates swimming.*

*No parking.*

3 [in countable nouns]

a) an example of doing something

*to hold a meeting*

b) a product or result of doing something

*a beautiful painting*

4 [in nouns] something used to do something or used for making something

*a silk lining*

*ten metres of curtaining* (=cloth for curtains)

**-ing** *suffix*   
used to form the present participle of regular verbs:   
*calling*   
*asking*

---- [not in Macmillan]

1 -**ing**

**Pronounced:**

/ɪŋ, ɪn/

**Function:**

verb suffix or adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

—used to form the present participle of a verb ▪ *sailing ▪ going*

2 -**ing**

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** action or process ▪ *running ▪ sleeping ▪ meeting ▪ drawing ▪ washing*   
2 **:** product or result of an action or process *▪ a painting ▪ an engraving*   
3 **:** something used in or connected with making or doing (a specified thing) ▪ *bedding ▪ roofing ▪ scaffolding*

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**inter-**

prefix

(in verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs)

between; from one to another

*interface*

*interaction*

*international*

**inter-_20__FBnt_EB_20_24_A0_2Dt_EBr_** prefix

between or involving two or more different things, places, or people [↪ intra-, intro-]:

*interdepartmental* (=between or involving different departments in a company, government etc)

*an interstate* (=a road that goes between states)

**inter-** prefix

used to form adjectives meaning 'between or among the stated people, things or places'

*international*

*an interdepartmental meeting*

*intercontinental missiles*

**inter**- prefix

between: used with some nouns, verbs, or adjectives:  
*an intercity train*  
*intermarriage* (=between people of different races, religions etc)

**inter**-

**Pronounced:**

/ɪntɚ/

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** between **:** among **:** together ▪ *interlock ▪ intertwine ▪ interrelation ▪ interrelate*   
2 **:** involving two or more ▪ *international ▪ interdepartmental ▪ interfaith*

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-**ion** (also -**ation, -ition, -sion, -tion, -xion**) suffix

(in nouns) the action or state of

*hesitation*

*competition*

*confession*

-**ion** suffix [in nouns]

the act, state, or result of doing something

*the completion of the task* (=act of finishing it)

*his election* (=he was elected) *to the post*

*Young children demand a lot of attention.*

**-ation** suffix [in nouns]

the act, state, or result of doing something

*an examination of the contents* (=examining them)

*the combination of several factors*

**-tion** suffix [in nouns]

another form of the suffix -**ion**

**-ion** suffix /-ən/ (also **-ation , also -ition**)

added to verbs to form nouns showing action or condition:   
*obsession*   
*restoration*   
*repetition*

-**tion** suffix

used with verbs to make nouns:  
*decoration* (=something used for decorating or the process of decorating)

-**ation**

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** the action or process of doing something ▪ *visitation ▪ memorization*

-**ion**

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

1 a **:** act or process ▪ *validation ▪ refrigeration ▪ rebellion* b **:** result of an act or process ▪ *regulation ▪ rejection*

2 **:** state or condition ▪ *perfection*

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-**ish** suffix (in adjectives)

1 from the country mentioned

*Turkish*

*Irish*

2 (sometimes disapproving) having the nature of; like

*childish*

3 fairly; approximately

*reddish*

*thirtyish*

-**ish** suffix

1 [in nouns] the people or language of a particular country or place

*Are the British unfriendly?*

*learning to speak Turkish*

*She's Swedish.*

2 [in adjectives] of a particular place

*Spanish food* (=from Spain)

3 [in adjectives] typical of or like a particular type of person

*foolish behaviour* (=typical of a fool)

*Don't be so childish*! (=do not behave like a child)

*snobbish*

4 [in adjectives] the ending of some adjectives that show disapproval

*selfish*

5 [in adjectives] rather

ￚsynonym quite

*youngish* (=not very young, but not old either)

*tallish*

*reddish hair*

6 [in adjectives] spoken approximately

*We'll expect you eightish* (=at about 8 o'clock).

*He's fortyish* (=about 40 years old).

**-ish** suffix **(FROM PLACE** )

used to form adjectives and nouns which say what country or area a person, thing or language comes from

*Spanish dancing* (= dancing from Spain)

*Are you English* (= someone from England)?

*I've always liked the Irish* (= people from Ireland).

*Do you speak Swedish* (= the language of Sweden)?

**-ish** *suffix* **(LIKE)**   
used to form adjectives which say what a person, thing or action is like:   
*foolish*   
*childish*

**-ish** *suffix* **(QUITE)**   
used to form adjectives to give the meaning to some degree; partly; quite:   
*He had a sort of reddish beard.*   
*She was oldish - about 60, I'd say.*   
*We'll start at sevenish* (= about 7 o'clock)*.*

-**ish** suffix

**1** used with the names of places to make adjectives and nouns meaning relating to a particular place or describing someone who comes from a particular place  
*Swedish*  
*the Irish*

**2** used with some nouns to make adjectives describing a quality that someone or something has  
*an impish grin*  
*childish behaviour*

**3** used with many adjectives to make other adjectives meaning slightly or fairly  
*a bluish tint*

**4** used with many numbers to make adverbs meaning APPROXIMATELY  
*We'll have lunch around one-ish.*  
*‘How old is she?’ ‘I don't know. Fortyish, I guess.’*

-**ish**

**Function:**

adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** almost or approximately ▪ *The car is greenish*. [=the car is a color that is almost green] ▪ *She looks to be about fiftyish*. [=she looks like she is around 50 years old]

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**-ism**

suffix

(in nouns)

1 the action or result of

*criticism*

2 the state or quality of

*heroism*

3 the teaching, system or movement of

*Buddhism*

4 unfair treatment or hatred for the reason mentioned

*racism*

5 a feature of language of the type mentioned

*an Americanism*

*a colloquialism*

6 a medical condition or disease

*alcoholism*

-**ism** suffix [in nouns]

1 a political belief or religion based on a particular principle or the ideas and beliefs of a particular person

*socialism*

*Buddhism*

2 the action or process of doing something

*his criticism of my work*

3 an action or remark that has a particular quality

*her witticisms* (=funny remarks)

4 the state of being like something or someone, or having a particular quality

*heroism* (=being a hero; bravery)

*magnetism* (=being magnetic)

5 illness caused by too much of something

*alcoholism*

6 the practice of treating people unfairly because of something

*sexism* (=making unfair differences between men and women)

*racism*

**-ism** *suffix*

• used to form nouns which describe social, political or religious beliefs, studies or ways of behaving

*sexism*

*feminism*

*Buddhism*

• an example of typical behaviour

*That expression was a real Taylor-ism* (= an example of behaving or speaking like Taylor).

--- [not in Macmillan]

-**ism**

**Pronounced:**

/ɪzəm/

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

1 a **:** the act, practice, or process of doing something —used to form nouns from verbs that end in -ize ▪ *criticism ▪ plagiarism ▪ hypnotism* b **:** behavior like that of a specified kind of person or thing ▪ *heroism* c **:** unfair treatment of a group of people who have a particular quality ▪ *racism ▪ sexism*   
2 **:** the state or fact of being a specified kind of person or thing ▪ *skepticism ▪ fanaticism*   
3 medical **:** abnormal state or condition ▪ *alcoholism ▪ dwarfism*   
4 **:** teachings or beliefs ▪ *Buddhism ▪ Marxism ▪ socialism ▪ stoicism ▪ realism*   
5 a **:** a word that is from a specified source ▪ *a Latinism* [=a word or phrase that comes from a Latin word or phrase] b **:** a word that has a specified quality ▪ *a colloquialism*

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**-ist**

suffix

(in nouns and some related adjectives)

1 a person who believes or practises something

*atheist*

2 a member of a profession or business activity

*dentist*

3 a person who uses a thing

*violinist*

4 a person who does something

*plagiarist*

-**ist** suffix

1 [in nouns] someone who believes in a particular religion or set of principles or ideas

*a Buddhist*

*an atheist*

*a Scottish Nationalist*

2 [in adjectives] relating to or showing a particular political or religious belief

*her socialist views*

*rightist parties* (=political parties with right-wing opinions)

3 [in nouns] someone who studies a particular subject, plays a particular instrument, or does a particular type of work

*a linguist* (=someone who studies or learns languages)

*a novelist* (=someone who writes novels)

*a guitarist* (=someone who plays the guitar)

*a machinist* (=someone who operates a machine)

ￚsee also -ologist

4 [in adjectives] treating people unfairly because of something

*a very sexist remark* (=making unfair differences between men and women)

5 [in nouns] someone who treats people unfairly because of something

*They're a bunch of racists.*

**-ist** *suffix*   
used to form adjectives and nouns which describe (a person with) a particular set of beliefs or way of behaving:   
*Marxist philosophy*   
*a feminist*   
*a sexist*

--- [not in Macmillan]

1 -**ist**

**Pronounced:**

/ɪst/

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

1 a **:** a person who does a specified action or activity ▪ *typist* b **:** a person who makes or produces something specified ▪ *novelist* c **:** a person who plays a specified musical instrument ▪ *pianist ▪ violinist* d **:** a person who operates a specified machine or vehicle ▪ *machinist ▪ bicyclist*

2 **:** a person who has a specified job or skill ▪ *geologist ▪ hairstylist ▪ dental hygienist ▪ artist*

3 **:** a person who has particular beliefs —used to form nouns from related nouns that end in -ism ▪ *socialist ▪ purist ▪ populist ▪ Methodist ▪ Buddhist ▪ Darwinist*

4 **:** a person who has a particular quality —used to form nouns from related nouns that end in -ism *▪ pessimist ▪ optimist ▪ idealist*

2 -**ist**

**Function:**

adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** of, relating to, or characterized by a specified quality —used to form adjectives from related nouns that end in -ism ▪ *an elitist attitude*

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**-ite**

suffix

(in nouns) (often disapproving)

a person who follows or supports somebody/something

*Blairite*

*Trotskyite*

-**ite** suffix

1 [in nouns] a follower or supporter of a particular idea or person - often used in order to show disapproval

*a group of Trotskyites* (=followers of Trotsky's political ideas)

*the Pre-Raphaelites*

2 [in adjectives] relating to a particular set of religious or political ideas, or with the ideas of a particular person

*his Reaganite opinions*

3 someone who lives in a particular place or belongs to a particular group

*a Brooklynite* (=someone from Brooklyn)

*the Israelites* (=in the Bible)

**-ite** *suffix*   
used for a person who supports particular beliefs, actions or ideas, especially when added to the name of the person who is the origin of the ideas:   
*a Thatcherite*   
*a Reaganite*

--- [not in Macmillan]

-**ite**

**Pronounced:**

/aɪt/

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** a person born, raised, or living in a specified area ▪ *suburbanite ▪ New Jerseyite*   
2 **:** a follower or supporter of a specified person or group ▪ *Reaganite*

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

-**itis** suffix   
(in nouns)

1 (medical)

a disease of

*tonsillitis*

2 (informal, especially humorous)

too much of; too much interest in

*World Cup-itis*

-**itis** suffix [in nouns]

1 an illness or infection that effects a particular part of your body

*tonsillitis* (=infection of the tonsils)

2 humorous the condition of having too much of something or liking something too much

*televisionitis* (=watching too much television)

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

-**i·tis**

**Pronounced:**

/aɪtəs/

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

medical **:** inflammation of something specified ▪ *tonsillitis ▪ bronchitis ▪ laryngitis* —sometimes used humorously to describe having too much of something ▪ *Hollywood has a bad case of sequelitis this summer*. [=too many movies being shown this summer are sequels]

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**-ity** suffix

(in nouns)

the quality or state of

*purity*

*oddity*

-**ity** suffix also -**ty** [in nouns]

the state of having a particular quality, or something that has that quality

*with great regularity* (=regularly)

*such stupidities* (=stupid actions or remarks)

**-ity** *suffix*   
added to adjectives to form nouns referring to a state or quality:   
*brutality*   
*legality*

--- [not in Macmillan]

-**ity**

**Pronounced:**

/əti/

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** quality, state, or degree ▪ *availability ▪ stability ▪ absurdity ▪ complexity ▪ salinity*

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

-**ive** suffix

(in nouns and adjectives) tending to; having the nature of

*explosive*

*descriptive*

-**ative** suffix

(in adjectives) doing or tending to do something

*illustrative*

*talkative*

-**ive** suffix [in nouns and adjectives]

someone or something that does something or can do something

*an explosive* (=substance that can explode)

*a detective* (=someone who tries to discover facts about crimes)

*the adoptive parents* (=who adopt a child)

-**ative** suffix [in adjectives]

liking something or tending to do something or show a particular quality

*talkative* (=liking to talk a lot)

*argumentative* (=enjoying arguments)

*imaginative* (=showing imagination)

**-ive** *suffix* (ALSO **-ative**, ALSO **-itive**, ALSO **-tive**)   
added to verbs to form adjectives meaning showing the ability to perform the activity represented by the verb:   
*imaginative*   
*descriptive*

--- [not in Macmillan]

-**ive**

**Pronounced:**

/ɪv/

**Function:**

adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** doing or tending to do something specified ▪ *exhaustive ▪ explosive*

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

-**ize, -ise** suffix

(in verbs)

1 to become, make or make like

*privatize*

*fossilize*

*Americanize*

2 to speak, think, act, treat, etc. in the way mentioned

*criticize*

*theorize*

*deputize*

*pasteurize*

3 to place in

*hospitalize*

-**ize** suffix also -**ise** British English [in verbs]

1 to make something have more of a particular quality

*We need to modernize our procedures.* (=make them more modern)

*Americanized spelling* (=spelling made more American)

*privatized transport* (=bus or train services that are owned and operated by private companies)

2 to change something to something else, or be changed to something else

*The liquid crystallized.* (=turned into crystals)

3 to speak or think in the way mentioned

*to soliloquize* (=speak a soliloquy, to yourself)

*I sat and listened to him sermonizing.* (=speaking solemnly, as if in a sermon)

4 to put into a particular place

*She was hospitalized after the accident.*

**-ize**, *suffix* UK USUALLY **-ise**   
added to adjectives to form verbs meaning to cause to become:   
*to modernize* (= to make modern)   
*to centralize*

-**ize** suffix

**1** used with some nouns and adjectives to make verbs meaning to become or make something become something:  
*legalize*  
*industrialize*  
*liquidize*

**2** used with some nouns to make verbs meaning to put someone in a particular place:  
*institutionalize*  
*hospitalize*

-**ize** also Brit -**ise**

**Pronounced:**

/aɪz/

**Function:**

verb suffix

**Meaning:**

1 a **:** to cause to become or become like something specified ▪ *Americanize* **:** to become or become like (something specified) ▪ *crystallize ▪ unionize* b **:** to treat like something specified ▪ *idolize ▪ lionize ▪ commercialize*

2 **:** to talk or write about someone or something in a specified way ▪ *satirize ▪ romanticize*

3 **:** to make or suggest something specified ▪ *hypothesize ▪ theorize ▪ philosophize*

4 **:** to place someone in something specified ▪ *hospitalize ▪ institutionalize*

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**-less**

suffix

(in adjectives)

1 without

*treeless*

*meaningless*

2 not doing; not affected by

*tireless*

*selfless*

-**lessly**

(in adverbs)

*hopelessly*

-**lessness**

(in nouns)

*helplessness*

-**less** suffix [in adjectives]

1 without something

*I felt powerless.*

*a childless couple*

*tasteless food*

2 not doing or using something

*You're too careless.*

*It's perfectly harmless.*

3 not possible to treat or affect in a particular way

*on countless occasions*

*She's tireless.*

**-less** *suffix*

used to form adjectives meaning 'without (the thing mentioned)'

*meaningless*

*friendless*

-**less** suffix

without: used with many nouns:  
*the homeless* (=people who do not have a home)  
*a hopeless situation*  
*a cold heartless woman* (=without sympathy for other people)

-**less**

**Pronounced:**

/ləs/

**Function:**

adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** not having something specified **:** without something ▪ *childless ▪ friendless ▪ a cloudless sky ▪ my first painless day since leaving the hospital*

2 a **:** never doing or becoming something specified ▪ *tireless workers* [=workers who never become tired] ▪ *ceaseless noise* [=noise that never ceases] b **:** not able to be acted on in a specified way ▪ *a dauntless hero* [=a hero who cannot be daunted] ▪ *countless years* [=too many years to be counted]

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-**ly** suffix

1 (in adverbs)

in the way mentioned

*happily*

*stupidly*

2 (in adjectives)

having the qualities of

*cowardly*

*scholarly*

3 (in adjectives and adverbs)

at intervals of

*hourly*

*daily*

-**ly** suffix

1 [in adverbs] in a particular way

*She smiled happily.*

*He was walking slowly.*

2 [in adverbs] considered in a particular way

*Politically speaking it was a rather unwise remark.*

*a financially sound proposal*

3 [in adjectives and adverbs] happening at regular periods of time

*an hourly check* (=done every hour)

*They visit monthly* (=once every month).

4 [in adjectives] like a particular thing in manner, nature, or appearance

*with queenly grace*

*a motherly woman* (=showing the love, kindness etc of a mother)

**-ly** *suffix* **(ADVERB)**

**1** in the stated way:   
*quickly*   
*carefully*   
*angrily*   
*loudly*

**2** when considered in the stated way:   
*Personally* (= in my opinion)*, I don't think animals should be killed for their fur.*   
*This is an environmentally* (= in relation to the environment) *disastrous proposal.*

**3** regularly after the stated period of time:   
*a weekly/monthly meeting*

**-ly** *suffix* **(ADJECTIVE)**

**1** like the stated person or thing  
*fatherly advice*   
*priestly duties*   
*cowardly behaviour*

**2** describes one of a series of events which happen with the stated regular period of time between each  
*a daily shower*   
*a weekly meeting*   
*a yearly check-up*

-**ly** suffix

used with many adjectives to make adverbs meaning in a particular way:  
*quietly* (=in a quiet way)  
*angrily* (=in an angry way)

1 -**ly**

**Pronounced:**

/li/

**Function:**

adverb suffix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** in a (specified) manner ▪ *sadly ▪ jokingly ▪ slowly*

2 a **:** in a (specified) period of time ▪ *The paper is published weekly*. b **:** to a (specified) degree or extent ▪ *extremely good ▪ relatively cheap ▪ partially true* c **:** in a (specified) place in a series ▪ *secondly ▪ lastly*

2 -**ly**

**Function:**

adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** similar in appearance, manner, or nature to a (specified) person ▪ *queenly ▪ fatherly*

2 **:** characterized by regular occurrence in (specified) periods of time ▪ *a weekly paper*

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**manu**(script)

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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**-ment**

suffix

(in nouns) the action or result of

*bombardment*

*development*

-**ment** suffix [in nouns]

used to form a noun from a verb to show actions, the people who do them, or their results

*the government* (=the people who govern a country)

*the replacement of something* (=the action of replacing something)

*some interesting new developments*

**-ment** *suffix*   
used to form nouns which refer to an action or process or its result:   
*a great achievement*   
*successful management*   
*a disappointment*

--- [not in Macmillan]

-**ment**

**Pronounced:**

/mənt/

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** the action or process of doing something ▪ *improvement ▪ development*   
2 **:** the product or result of an action ▪ *entertainment*   
3 **:** the state or condition caused by an action ▪ *amazement ▪ fulfillment*

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(hydro)**metry**

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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**milli**-

combining form

(in nouns; used in units of measurement)

one thousandth

*milligram*

**milli**- prefix [in nouns]

a 1000th part of a unit

*a millilitre* (=0.001 litres)

**milli-** *prefix*   
0.001 of the stated unit:   
*milliamp*   
*millijoule*

**milli**- prefix

one of a thousand equal parts of something: used with many nouns:  
*a millisecond*  
*a millilitre*

**milli**-

**Function:**

combining form

**Meaning:**

**:** one thousandth part of something ▪ *millimeter*

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**mini-**

combining form

(in nouns)

small

*mini-break* (= a short holiday/vacation)

*minigolf*

**mini**- prefix

very small or short, compared with others of the same kind

*All the hotel's bedrooms have a mini-bar, telephone and radio.*

*a mini-screen TV*

**mini-** *prefix*

smaller or less important than a normal example of the same thing

*There's a mini-library in each classroom, as well as the central library.*

*We took the kids to play mini-golf.*

--- [not in Macmillan]

**mini**-

**Function:**

combining form

**Meaning:**

**:** smaller or shorter than usual or normal **:** [miniature](http://www.learnersdictionary.com/search/miniature) ▪ *minibike ▪ miniskirt*

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**mis**-

prefix

(in verbs and nouns)

bad or wrong; badly or wrongly

*misbehaviour*

*misinterpret*

**mis**- prefix

1 bad or badly

*misfortune* (=bad luck)

*He's been misbehaving.*

2 wrong or wrongly

*a miscalculation*

*I misunderstood you.*

3 used to refer to an opposite or the lack of something

*What caused this anger and mistrust* (=lack of trust) *?*

**mis-** *prefix*   
added to the beginning of a verb or word formed from a verb, to show that the action referred to by the verb has been done wrongly or badly:   
*I never said that! You must have misheard me.*   
*His misbehaviour eventually led to him being expelled from school.*

**mis**- prefix

**1** bad or badly: used with some nouns and verbs:  
*misbehaviour* (=bad behaviour)

**2** wrong or wrongly: used with some nouns and verbs:  
*misunderstand* (=understand wrongly)

**mis**-

**Pronounced:**

/mɪs/

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** badly **:** wrongly ▪ *misjudge ▪ misfile ▪ misbehave*   
2 **:** bad **:** wrong ▪ *misunderstanding ▪ misdeed ▪ misdiagnosis*   
3 **:** opposite or lack of ▪ *mistrust*

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--- [not in Oxford]

**-monger** *suffix* [in nouns]  
 1 someone who sells a particular thing

*a fishmonger*

2 *rumour-monger/gloom-monger/doom-monger* etc

someone who says unpleasant things

*The rumour-mongers have been busy again.*

*the economic gloom-mongers*

**-monger** *suffix* MAINLY DISAPPROVING   
a person who encourages a particular activity, especially one which causes trouble:   
*They're nothing but a bunch of war-mongers.*

--- [not in Macmillan]

--- [not in Merriam-Webster’s]

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**mono-**

combining form

(also **mon**-)

 (in nouns and adjectives) one; single

*monorail*

*monogamy*

**mono**- prefix

one

*a monoplane* (=a plane with only one wing on each side)

*a monolingual dictionary* (=dealing with only one language)

**mono-** *prefix* **(SINGLE)**   
one; single:   
*monolingual*   
*a monorail*

**mono**- prefix

single or one: used to make adjectives and nouns:  
*monolingual* (=speaking or written in only one language)  
*monologue* (=long speech by one person)

**mono**-

**Function:**

combining form

**Meaning:**

**:** one **:** single ▪ *monoplane* ▪ *monolingual*

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-**most** suffix (in adjectives) the furthest: *inmost* (= the furthest in) *· southernmost · topmost* (= the furthest up / nearest to the top)

-**most** suffix [in adjectives]

nearest to something

*the northernmost town in Sweden* (=the town that is furthest to the north)

*the topmost branches of the tree*

**-most** *suffix*   
used to mean 'furthest':   
*John O'Groats is the northernmost part of the British mainland* (= the part that is farther to the north than any other part)*.*

-**most** suffix

**1** nearest to: used with some nouns to make adjectives:  
*endmost*

**2** used with some adjectives to make adjectives meaning furthest in a particular direction:  
*the southernmost point on the island*

-**most**

**Pronounced:**

/moʊst/

**Function:**

adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** in or to the greatest degree **:** [most](http://learnersdictionary.com/search/most) ▪ *innermost ▪ outermost ▪ topmost*

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**-ness** suffix

(in nouns)

the quality, state or character of

*dryness*

*blindness*

*silliness*

**-ness** suffix [in nouns]

used to form nouns from adjectives

*loudness*

*sadness*

**-ness** *suffix*   
added to adjectives to form nouns which refer to a quality or a condition  
*happiness*   
*sadness*   
*nervousness*   
*selfishness*   
*kindness*

-**ness** suffix

used with many adjectives to make nouns meaning a state or quality:  
*completeness* (=the state of being complete)  
*politeness* (=polite behaviour)

-**ness**

**Pronounced:**

/nəs/

**Function:**

noun combining form

**Meaning:**

**:** state **:** condition **:** quality ▪ *goodness ▪ friendliness ▪ sickness ▪ freshness*

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**non-**

prefix

(in nouns, adjectives and adverbs)

not

*nonsense*

*non-fiction*

*non-alcoholic*

*non-profit-making*

*non-committally*

Help

 Most compounds with *non* are written with a hyphen in British English but are written as one word with no hyphen in North American English.

**non**- / prefix

1 [in adjectives, nouns, and adverbs] used to say that someone or something is not a particular thing, or does not do a particular thing

*non-British visitors*

*a non-smoker* (=someone who does not smoke)

*a non-stop flight* (=one in which a plane flies from one place to another without stopping on the way)

2 [in nouns] used to refer to a situation where a particular action did not happen or will not happen

*non-payment of taxes*

*They were very disappointed at his non-appearance* (=the fact that he did not go to an event where he was expected).

**non-** *prefix*   
used to add the meaning 'not' or 'the opposite of' to adjectives and nouns  
*non-sexist*   
*non-racist*

**non**- / prefix

**1** not: used with nouns and adjectives:  
*a non-alcoholic drink* (=one that does not contain alcohol)

**2** failure to do something: used with nouns  
*non-delivery* (=failure to deliver goods)

**3** not good or exciting: used with nouns  
*a non-event* (=an event that is very boring)

**non**-

**Pronounced:**

/nɑn/

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

**:** not ▪ *nonfatal ▪ nonfiction ▪ nonprofit ▪ non-native English speakers ▪ a nonreligious holiday*

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**-cracy**

combining form

(in nouns) the government or rule of

*democracy*

*bureaucracy*

-**ocracy** suffix also -**cracy** [in nouns]

government by a particular sort of people or according to a particular principle

*democracy* (=government by the people)

*meritocracy* (=government by people with the most ability)

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

--- [not in Merriam-Webster’s]

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**-crat**

combining form

(in nouns)

a member or supporter of a particular type of government or system

*democrat*

*bureaucrat*

-**ocrat** suffix also -**crat** [in nouns]

1 someone who believes in a particular principle of government

*a democrat* (=someone who believes in government by the people)

2 a member of a powerful or governing social class or group

*a technocrat* (=a scientist who controls an organization or country)

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

--- [not in Merriam-Webster’s]

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**-oid**

suffix

(in adjectives and nouns) similar to

*humanoid*

*rhomboid*

--- [not in Longman]

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

--- [not in Merriam-Webster’s]

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**-ology**

combining form

-**logy**

(in nouns)

1 a subject of study

*sociology*

*genealogy*

2 a characteristic of speech or writing

*phraseology*

*trilogy*

-**ology** suffix also -**logy** [in nouns]

1 the study of something, especially something scientific

*geology* (=the study of rocks and the Earth)

*climatology* (=the study of climate)

*Egyptology* (=the study of ancient Egypt)

2 the things studied by a particular science

*The geology* (=structure of the rocks etc) *of north Devon is particularly interesting.*

**-ology** *suffix*   
the scientific study of a particular subject:   
*geology*   
*climatology*

--- [not in Macmillan]

-**logy**

**Function:**

noun combining form

**Meaning:**

1 **:** area of knowledge **:** theory **:** science ▪ *theology ▪ biology ▪ musicology ▪ psychology*

2 **:** speech or writing ▪ *trilogy*

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--- [not in Oxford]

-**osis** suffix

-osis_20__EB_s_C2s_20_24_A0o__2D_ *plural* -oses_20__EB_si_z_20_24_A0o__2D_ [in nouns]

1 a diseased condition:

*silicosis* (=a lung disease)

*neuroses* (=medical conditions that affect the mind)

2 a condition or process:

a *metamorphosis* (=change from one state to another)

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

--- [not in Merriam-Webster’s]

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**-ous**

suffix

(in adjectives) having the nature or quality of

*poisonous*

*mountainous*

-**ous** suffix [in adjectives]

describes something that has a particular quality

*dangerous* (=full of danger)

*spacious* (=with a lot of space)

**-ous** suffix

added to nouns to form adjectives which refer to a quality or condition

*dangerous*

*ambitious*

--- [not in Macmillan]

-**ous**

**Pronounced:**

/əs/

**Function:**

adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** full of **:** having a large amount of ▪ *dangerous* [=full of danger] ▪ *poisonous* [=having or containing poison] ▪ *mountainous* [=having many mountains] **:** having the quality of ▪ *courageous* [=having courage] ▪ *glamorous* [=having glamour]

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**out**- prefix   
1 (in verbs) greater, better, further, longer, et

*coutnumber*

*outwit*

*outgrow*

*outlive*

2 (in nouns and adjectives) outside; outward; away from

*outbuildings*

*outpatient*

*outlying*

*outgoing*

**out**-

1 used to form nouns and adjectives from verbs that are followed by 'out':

*an outbreak of flu* (=from 'break out')

*outspoken comments* (=from 'speak out')

2 [in nouns and adjectives] outside or beyond something:

*an outbuilding* (=small building away from the main building)

*outlying areas* (=far from the centre)

3 [in verbs] being or becoming bigger, further, greater etc than someone or something else:

*He's outgrown his clothes* (=become too big for them).

*She outlived her brother* (=he died before her).

4 [in verbs] doing better than someone, so that you defeat them:

*I can out-argue you any day*.

*She outran him*.

**out-** prefix **(NOT CENTRAL)**

/aʊt-/ prefix

used to add the meaning 'not central' to nouns and adjectives

*the outskirts of town* (= the areas that form the edge of the town)

**out-** prefix **(FURTHER)**

/aʊt-/ prefix

used to add the meaning 'going further' or 'being better than' to verbs

*She doesn't drink or smoke and I'm sure she'll outlive* (= live longer than) *us all*.

**out-** prefix **(AWAY FROM)**

/aʊt-/ prefix

used to add the meaning 'out of' or 'away from' to nouns and adjectives

*She turned away from their outstretched hands* (= hands held out).

**out-**

1 bigger, better, longer etc: used with many verbs

*outclass*

*outnumber*

*outshine*

2 outside, or away from: used with many nouns and adjectives

*outdoor*

*outbuilding*

*outflow*

3 used for forming nouns and adjectives from verbs that are followed by ‘out’

*outcome* (=from ‘to come out’)

*outlay*

*outspoken*

**out**-

**Pronounced:**

/ˌaʊt/

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

**:** in a manner that is greater, better, or more than something else ▪ *outnumber ▪ outgrow ▪ outrun ▪ outmaneuver ▪ outplay*

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**over-**

prefix

(in nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs)

1 more than usual; too much

*overproduction*

*overload*

*over*-*optimistic*

*overconfident*

*overanxious*

2 completely

*overjoyed*

3 upper; outer; extra

*overcoat*

*overtime*

4 over; above

*overcast*

*overhang*

**over**-_20__EB_v_EB_20_24_A0o_v_EBr_

1 too much:

*overpopulation*

*overcooked* *vegetables*

*overweight*

2 above; beyond; across:

*overhanging branches*

*overhead telephone wires*

*the overland route* (=not by sea or air)

3 outer:

*an overcoat*

4 additional:

*We were working overtime*. (=working beyond the usual time)

**over- prefix ( TOO MUCH )**

too much or more than usual

*The children got rather over-excited* (= too excited).

**over- prefix ( MORE THAN )**

more than

*a club for the over-50s*

**over- prefix ( ACROSS )**

across

*Of course, the overland route is much slower than going by air.*

**over- prefix ( HIGHER POSITION )**

above

*She was knocked off her bicycle by an overhanging branch.*

**over-**

prefix British English pronunciation: over- /əʊvə(r)/

1 too much: used with many verbs, nouns, or adjectives

*to overheat*

*an overreaction*

*overconfident*

2 more than: used with some nouns

*a club for the over-sixties* (=people who are more than 60 years old)

3 on, or above: used with some nouns

*travelling overland*

4 on top of: used with some nouns

*over-trousers* (=trousers worn on top of other trousers to protect them)

**over**-

**Pronounced:**

/ˌoʊvɚ/

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

1 a **:** too much or too great ▪ *overconfident ▪ overcrowded ▪ overqualified ▪ overripe* b **:** so as to be better or beyond ▪ *overachieve ▪ overtake*   
2 **:** very or extremely ▪ *overjoyed*   
3 **:** above ▪ *overcoat ▪ overhang*   
4 **:** forward and often downward ▪ *overbite ▪ overboard*

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**para-**

prefix

(in nouns and adjectives)

1 beyond

*paranormal*

2 similar to but not official or not fully qualified

*paramilitary*

*a paramedic*

**para**- prefix

1 beyond

*the paranormal* (=strange unnatural events, beyond normal experience)

2 very similar to something

*terrorists wearing paramilitary uniforms*

3 relating to a profession and helping more highly trained people

*a paramedic* (=someone who helps a doctor)

*a paralegal* (=someone who helps a lawyer)

4 relating to parachutes

*a paratrooper*

*paragliding*

**para-** *prefix* **(BEYOND)**   
beyond:   
*Parapsychology is the study of abilities that go beyond what is natural and normal.*   
*paranormal phenomena*

**para-** *prefix* **(SIMILAR)**   
similar to, or helping to do a similar job:   
*a paramedic*   
*paramilitary*

**para**- prefix

**1** beyond: used with some nouns and adjectives:  
*paranormal* (=strange and mysterious)

**2** giving help to professional people: used with some nouns and adjectives:  
*a paralegal* (=someone who is trained to help a lawyer)

**3** similar to: used with some nouns and adjectives:  
*a paramilitary organization* (=operating like an army)

**4** involving the use of a PARACHUTE: used with some nouns:  
*parasailing* (=a sport in which you are pulled through the air by a boat while wearing a PARACHUTE)

1 **para**-

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** beyond or outside of ▪ *paranormal*

2 **:** helping highly trained professionals by doing tasks that require less training ▪ *paramedic ▪ paralegal*

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**peri**(natal)

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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-**phile** combining form (in nouns and adjectives) liking a particular thing; a person who likes a particular thing: *Anglophile · bibliophile*—compare -phobe

-**phile** suffix also -**phil** [in nouns]

someone who likes something

*a bibliophile* (=someone who likes books)

*an Anglophile* (=someone who likes English or British things)

**-phile** *suffix*   
someone who enjoys a particular thing or has it as a hobby, or who likes a particular place:   
*A bibliophile likes books and an oenophile enjoys wine.*   
*An Anglophile likes England or Britain.*

-**phile** suffix

used for making nouns and adjectives describing someone who loves or likes something:  
*technophile* (=someone who likes new technology such as computers)  
*francophile* (=someone who loves France or the French culture and people)

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-**phily**

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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**phobia**

noun

1 a strong unreasonable fear of something

*He has a phobia about flying.*

*One of the symptoms of the disease is water phobia.*

2 -**phobia**

(in nouns) a strong unreasonable fear or hatred of a particular thing

*claustrophobia*

*xenophobia*

-**phobia** suffix [in nouns]

1 technical a strong unreasonable dislike or fear of something, which may be part of a mental illness

*claustrophobia* (=fear of being in a small enclosed space)

*aquaphobia* (=fear of water)

2 a dislike or hatred of something

*Anglophobia* (=a dislike of English or British things)

**phobia** noun

n [C]

an extreme fear of a particular thing or situation, especially one that cannot be reasonably explained

*I've got a phobia about/of worms.*

-**phobia** suffix

*Xenophobia means hatred of foreigners.*

-**phobia** suffix

used for making nouns describing a strong feeling of disliking or being afraid of someone or something:  
*technophobia* (=not liking new technology, especially computers)  
*arachnophobia* (=fear of spiders)

-**pho·bia**

**Pronounced:**

/ˈfoʊbijə/

**Function:**

noun combining form

**Meaning:**

**:** an extremely strong dislike or fear of someone or something ▪ *xenophobia* [=fear and hatred of foreign people and things] —compare [-philia](http://learnersdictionary.com/search/-philia)

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**pre**- prefix

(in verbs, nouns and adjectives)

before

*preheat*

*precaution*

*pre-war*

*preseason training* (= before a sports season starts)

**pre**- prefix

1 before someone or something

ￚsee also ante-

*prewar* (=before a war)

2 in preparation

*a prearranged signal*

*Preset the video*.

**pre-** *prefix*   
before (a time or an event)  
*a pre-flight check*   
*a pre-lunch drink*   
*pre-industrial societies*

**pre**- prefix

before: used with many nouns, verbs, or adjectives:  
*pre-war fashions*  
*a prearranged meeting*  
*preschool programmes* (=for children who are too young for school)  
*precooked meals* (=that you buy to take home and heat)

**pre**-

**Pronounced:**

/pri**:**/

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** earlier than **:** before ▪ *prehistoric ▪ preseason*

2 **:** in advance ▪ *prepay*

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**pro-**

prefix

(in adjectives)

in favour of; supporting

*pro-democracy*

**pro**- prefix

1 supporting or approving of something

ￚopposite anti-

*pro-American*

*the pro-choice lobby*

2 technical doing a job instead of someone

*the pro-vice-chancellor*

**pro-** *prefix*   
supporting or approving of something:   
*pro-American*   
*pro-democracy demonstrations*

**pro**- prefix

supporting or approving of something: used with some nouns and adjectives:  
*pro-democracy*  
*pro-European*

**pro**-

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

**:** in favor of **:** supporting —often used with a hyphen ▪ *pro-Democracy* —opposite [anti-](http://www.learnersdictionary.com/search/anti-)

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**re-**

prefix

(in verbs and related nouns, adjectives and adverbs)

again

*reapply*

*reincarnation*

*reassuring*

**re**- prefix

1 again

*They're rebroadcasting the play.*

2 again in a better way

*She asked me to redo the essay.*

3 back to a former state

*After years of separation they were finally reunited.*

**re-** *prefix*

**1** used to add the meaning 'do again', especially to verbs:   
*rebuild*   
*remarry*   
*reusable*

**2** returning something to its original state:   
*reafforestation* (= planting new trees in an area where they were previously cut down)*.*

**re**- prefix

**1** again: used with many verbs, nouns, or adjectives:  
*Previous applicants need not re-apply.*  
*the re-election of the Mayor*  
*reheated soup*

**2** again in a different way: used with many verbs, nouns, or adjectives:  
*We've decided to redecorate the kitchen.*  
*a rearrangement of our plans*  
*a completely rewritten script*

**3** back to the way something was before: used with many verbs and nouns:  
*She reappeared a few minutes later.*  
*the recapture of the city*

**re**-

**Pronounced:**

/ri/

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** again ▪ *refill* [=fill again] ▪ *redo* [=do over; do again]

2 **:** back to an original place, condition, etc. ▪ *recall* [=call something back]

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(hydro)**scopy**

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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**sub-**

prefix

1 (in nouns and adjectives)

below; less than

*sub-zero temperatures*

*a subtropical* (= almost tropical) climate

*substandard*

2 (in nouns and adjectives)

under

*subway*

*submarine*

3 (in verbs and nouns)

a smaller part of something

*subdivide*

*subset*

**sub**- prefix

1 under or below a particular level or thing

*subzero temperatures*

*subsoil* (=beneath the surface)

2 less important or powerful than someone or something, or of lower rank than someone

*a sublieutenant*

3 part of a bigger whole

*a subsection*

*a subcommittee*

4 not as good as other people or things

*substandard housing*

*subnormal intelligence*

5 technical almost

*subtropical heat*

**sub-** *prefix* **(BELOW)**   
under or below  
*Winter weather brought sub-zero* (= less than 0 degrees) *temperatures to much of the country.*

**sub-** *prefix* **(NOT QUITE)**   
almost or nearly  
*subhuman*   
*subtropical*

**sub-** *prefix* **(NOT EQUAL)**   
less important or lower in rank  
*a sublieutenant*   
*a subordinate*

**sub-** *prefix* **(SMALLER)**   
being a smaller part of a larger whole   
*a subcontinent*   
*a subcommittee meeting*   
*to subdivide*

**sub**- prefix

**1** one small part of a larger thing: used with some nouns:  
*a subset*

**2** smaller or less important than someone or something: used with some nouns:  
*a sub-post office*

**3** below or under something: used with some nouns and adjectives:  
*subaqua diving* (=diving under water)  
*substandard* (=below average)

**3a.** further south: used with some nouns and adjectives:  
*sub-Saharan Africa*  
*the subarctic region*

**sub**-

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** under **:** beneath **:** below ▪ *subsoil ▪ subfreezing*

2 a **:** at a lower rank or secondary level ▪ *substation* b **:** division or smaller part of ▪ *subcommittee ▪ subtopic*

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**super-**

combining form

1 (in adjectives, adverbs and nouns)

extremely; more or better than normal

*super-rich*

*superhuman*

*superglue*

2 (in nouns and verbs)

above; over

*superstructure*

*superimpose*

**super**- prefix

more, larger, greater, or more powerful

*the super-rich*

*super-efficient*

*super-fit*

**super-** *prefix* **(MORE THAN USUAL)**   
larger, or more effective, or more powerful, or more successful than usual; very or more than usually:   
*a supercomputer*   
*a supermodel*   
*the super-rich*   
*superfine stockings*

**super-** *prefix* **(OVER)**   
over; above:   
*a superstructure*

**super**- prefix

more, better, or bigger than usual: used with many nouns, adjectives, and verbs:  
*supersonic*  
*a new super-virus*  
*a superhero*

**super**-

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** bigger, better, or more important than others of the same kind ▪ *superhuman*   
2 **:** superior in position or rank ▪ *a military superpower*

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**tele**-

combining form

(in nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs)

1 over a long distance; far

*telepathy*

*telescopic*

2 connected with television

*teletext*

3 done using a telephone

*telesales*

**tele**- prefix

1 at or over a long distance

*a telescope* (=for seeing a long way)

*telecommunications* (=communicating with people a long way away)

*teleshopping* (=using a computer in your home to order goods)

2 for television or broadcast on television

*a teleplay*

3 using a telephone

*telesales* (=selling products to people by telephone)

**tele-** *prefix*   
over a long distance, done by telephone, or on or for television

**tele**- prefix

involving the telephone or television: used with some nouns and adjectives:  
*telesales* (=the activity of selling things to customers by telephoning them)  
*teleplay* (=a play written for television)

**tele**-

**Function:**

combining form

**Meaning:**

1 **:** at or over a long distance ▪ *telegram ▪ telescope ▪ telecommunications ▪ television*

2 **:** television ▪ *telecast*

3 **:** using a telephone ▪ *telemarketing*

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(laught)**ter**

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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(cafe)**teria**

--- [not found in any of the dictionaries]

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-**th** suffix

1 (in ordinal numbers)

*sixth*

*fifteenth*

*hundredth*

2 (in nouns) the action or process of

*growth*

--- [not in Longman]

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

--- [not in Merriam-Webster’s]

**------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**theo**- combining form

(in nouns, adjectives and adverbs)

connected with God or a god

**theo**-_20__D8i__EB_ also **the-**

relating to God or gods:

*theology* (=study of religion)

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

--- [not in Merraim-Webster’s]

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**tri-**

combining form

(in nouns and adjectives) three; having three

*tricycle*

*triangular*

**tri**- prefix

three

*trilingual* (=speaking three languages)

*triangle* (=a shape with three sides)

**tri-** *prefix*

three

*a triangle*

*a tripod*

**tri**- prefix

three: used with some adjectives and nouns:  
*a tri-annual event* (=happening every three years)  
*trilingual* (=speaking three languages)

**tri**-

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

**:** three **:** having three parts ▪ *triangle ▪ tricycle*

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**un**- prefix

1 (in adjectives, adverbs and nouns)

not; the opposite of

*unable*

*unconsciously*

*untruth*

2 (in verbs that describe the opposite of a process)

*unlock*

*undo*

**un**- prefix

1 [in adjectives, adverbs, and nouns] used to show a negative, a lack, or an opposite

ￚsynonym not

*unfair*

*unhappy*

*unfortunately*

*uncertainty*

2 [in verbs] used to show an opposite of a particular action

*to undress* (=to take your clothes off)

*Have you unpacked yet* (=taken your things out of your suitcase) *?*

*I heard Lila unlock the front door.*

**un-** *prefix*   
used to add the meaning 'not', 'lacking' or 'the opposite of' before adjectives, adverbs, verbs and nouns:   
*unrealistic*   
*unhappily*   
*unscrew*   
*unfairness*

**un**- prefix

used with many adjectives, adverbs, and verbs to give the opposite meaning:  
*unable*  
*unhappy*  
*uncooked*  
*unzip*  
*unhurriedly*

**un**-

**Pronounced:**

/ˌʌn/

**Function:**

prefix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** not ▪ *unhappy ▪ unpleasant ▪ unlawful ▪ unskilled ▪ unbreakable ▪ unwise*

2 **:** opposite of **:** contrary to ▪ *unethical ▪ unconstitutional ▪ ungodly ▪ unorthodox*

3 **:** do the opposite of **:** reverse (a specified action) ▪ *untie ▪ undress ▪ unscrew ▪ unfold*

4 **:** remove (a specified thing) from ▪ *uncork a wine bottle ▪ uncover ▪ unleash*

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**up-** prefix

(in adjectives, verbs and related nouns) higher; upwards; towards the top of something

*upland*

*upturned*

*upgrade*

*uphill*

**up**-_20__161p_ prefix

1 making something higher:

*to upgrade a job* (=make it higher in importance)

2 [especially in adverbs and adjectives] at or towards the top or beginning of something:

*uphill*

*upriver* (=nearer to where the river starts)

3 [especially in verbs] taking something from its place or turning it upside down:

*an uprooted tree*

*She upended the bucket.*

4 [especially in adjectives and adverbs] at or towards the higher or better part of something:

*upmarket* (=attracting richer people)

**up-** prefix

higher or improved

*uphill*

*uplift*

**up**-

prefix British English pronunciation: up- /ʌp/

1 in or going towards a position that is higher or further north: used with some adjectives, nouns, and adverbs

*She went upstairs.*

*upstate New York*

2 more modern or fashionable: used with some adjectives, nouns, and verbs

*a computer upgrade*

*upmarket holiday accommodation* (=expensive and of high quality)

3 happier, or more exciting: used with some adjectives, nouns, and verbs

*I was uplifted by the experience.*

*She seems much more upbeat* (=much happier).

4 moved or changed completely: used with some adjectives, nouns, and verbs

*He uprooted his family and moved to Canada*.

**up-**  adverb [Merriam-Webster’s]

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**-ure**

suffix

(in nouns)

the action, process or result of

*closure*

*failure*

-**ure** suffix [in nouns]

used to make nouns that show actions or results

*the closure* (=closing) *of the factory*

*exposure*

*failure*

--- [not in Cambridge]

--- [not in Macmillan]

-**ure**

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

1 **:** act **:** process ▪ *exposure ▪ failure ▪ closure*   
2 **:** a group of people who do a specified job or activity ▪ *legislature*

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**-wise**

suffix

(in adjectives and adverbs)

1 in the manner or direction of

*likewise*

*clockwise*

2 (informal) concerning

*Things aren't too good businesswise.*

**-wise**_20_wa_FBz_

1

**price-wise/time-wise etc**

informal used for saying which feature of a situation you are referring to:

*Time-wise we're not doing too badly.*

2

**crosswise/lengthwise etc**

in a direction across something, along the length of something etc:

*Cut the carrots lengthwise.*

**-wise suffix ( IN THIS WAY )**

in this way or in this direction

*clockwise*

*lengthwise*

**-wise suffix ( RELATING TO )**

informal relating to a particular thing

*What shall we do foodwise - do you fancy going out to eat?*

*Moneywise, of course, I'm much better off than I used to be.*

*What do we need to take with us clothes-wise?*

*We were very lucky weather-wise yesterday.*

-**wise**

suffix British English pronunciation: -wise /waɪz/

1 speaking of, or referring to: used with many nouns, verbs, and adjectives

*It was a poor show, talent-wise* (=speaking of talent).

*weather-wise* (=referring to the weather)

2 in the direction of: used with some nouns and adjectives

*lengthwise* (=from one end to another)

*cross-wise* (=in a cross direction)

-wise

**Pronounced:**

/ˌwaɪz/

**Function:**

combining form

**Meaning:**

1 a **:** in the position or direction of ▪ *crosswise* [=in a direction that goes across something] ▪ *lengthwise* b **:** in the manner of ▪ moving *crabwise* [=moving like a crab]   
2 informal **:** with regard to **:** [concerning](http://www.learnersdictionary.com/search/concerning) ▪ *She has made some bad choices career-wise*. [=she has made some bad choices about her career] ▪ *Style-wise, their music is very different from mine*. [=the style of their music is very different from mine] ▪ *Health-wise, I'm doing fine*. [=my health is fine]

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-**y** suffix

1 (also **-ey**) (in adjectives)

full of; having the quality of

*dusty*

*clayey*

2 (in adjectives)

tending to

*runny*

*sticky*

3 (in nouns)

the action or process of

*inquiry*

4 (also **-ie**) (in nouns, showing affection)

*doggy*

*daddy*

-**y** suffix [in adjectives]

1 full of something or covered with something

*sugary desserts* (=full of sugar)

*dirty hands* (=covered with dirt)

*a hairy chest* (=covered with hair)

2 having a quality or feeling, or tending to do something

*a messy room*

*curly hair* (=hair that curls)

*feeling sleepy*

3 like or typical of something

*a cold wintry day* (=typical of winter)

*his long, horsy face* (=he looks like a horse)

4 fond of or interested in something

*a horsy woman* (=who likes riding horses)

-**y** suffix [in nouns]

1 also -**ie**

used to make a word or name less formal, and often to show that you care about them - used especially when talking to children

*Where's little Johnny?*

*my daddy* (=my father)

*What a nice doggy* (=dog) !

2 used to make nouns from some verbs to show an action

*the expiry date* (=the date when something expires)

*an inquiry* (=the act of inquiring about something)

**-y** *suffix*   
added to nouns to form adjectives meaning like the stated thing:   
*cheesy*

--- [not in Macmillan]

1 -**y** also -**ey**

**Pronounced:**

/i/

**Function:**

adjective suffix

**Meaning:**

1 a **:** full or having a lot of something *▪ a muddy river* [=a river with a lot of mud in it] *▪ dirty hands* [=hands with a lot of dirt on them] b **:** having the qualities of something ▪ *gooey* [=wet and sticky like goo] **:** made of or seeming to be made of something ▪ *waxy* c **:** resembling something ▪ *icy* [=like ice; very cold] ▪ *wintry* temperatures [=temperatures that are cold like winter temperatures] ▪ *a homey atmosphere* d **:** very interested in something ▪ *outdoorsy* [=enthusiastic about activities done outside]

2 a **:** tending to do something ▪ *chatty* [=tending to chat] **:** wanting or needing to do something ▪ *sleepy* b **:** causing or performing a specified action ▪ *a drowsy afternoon* [=an afternoon that makes you feel ready to drowse/sleep] ▪ *curly hair* [=hair that curls]

2 -**y**

**Pronounced:**

/i/

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

**:** an act of doing something ▪ *inquiry* [=an act of inquiring]

-**ie** also -**y**

**Pronounced:**

/i/

**Function:**

noun suffix

**Meaning:**

informal 1 **:** little one ▪ *bootie ▪ birdie* ***:*** *dear little one ▪ sonny*

2 **:** someone or something that is ▪ *smarty ▪ biggie ▪ toughie*

3 **:** someone belonging to ▪ *townie* **:** someone having to do with ▪ *druggie*

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