

Root words and prefixes

A **root word** is the most basic form of a word, for example, *match*. You can add letters to the beginning or end of a root word to make a new word like *mismatch* or *matching*.

Letters that are added to the front of a root word are called **prefixes**.


Example: unhappy, disappoint, preview, revisit

Prefixes have different meanings. Different prefixes are added to a root word to create different words.

Examples: mis + heard = misheard (which means you didn't hear correctly)

un + heard = unheard (which means it wasn't heard at all)

1. Draw a line from the prefix in the left-hand column of the table to its correct meaning in the right-hand column.

Prefix	Meaning
<i>auto-</i>	
<i>mis-</i>	
<i>trans-</i>	
<i>sub-</i>	
<i>mini-</i>	

2. Complete the table below. Write the meaning of each prefix in the third column. Write the new word in column four.

Prefix	Root word	Meaning of the prefix	New word
<i>auto-</i>	pilot		
<i>micro-</i>	scope		
<i>under-</i>	value		
<i>un-</i>	finished		
<i>trans-</i>	atlantic		

Suffixes

A root word is the most basic form of a word, for example, *tidy*. You can add a letter or a group of letters to the beginning or end of a root word to make up new words like *untidy* or *tidying*.

Letters that are added to the end of a root word are called **suffixes**.

Suffixes can change a word without changing the meaning of the word.

Examples: biscuit – biscuits (change from a singular to a plural)
drive – drives – driving – driven (change in tense)

Suffixes can also change a word and change the part of speech of a word.

Examples: sad + ness = sadness (change an adjective to an abstract noun)
teach + er = teacher (create new words called derivatives)



Turn to page 62 for notes on prefixes and root words.

- Identify all the suffixes in the sentences below. Underline the suffixes and decide if the suffix is forming a plural (write **P**), changing the tense (write **T**), creating a new word (write **N**) or changing the part of speech (write **S**) of the root word. The first one has been done for you.

- I have just ^Twritten my History test.
- There was a lot of laughter at the comedy show.
- My aunt has two children.
- David cycles to school on one of his two bicycles.
- The bus driver avoided the accident by swerving around the cars.
- Sarah paints anything her imagination can dream of.
- Learners at that school practised hard for the swimming gala.

- Complete the table below by adding suffixes to change the root word into the necessary part of speech.

Root word	Noun	Adjective	Adverb
concentrate			
admire			
tired			
anger			
mild			