

Use Word Parts to Determine the Meaning of Words

Sometimes looking at the different parts of a word can help us figure out what it means. One way to do this is to see if the word has a prefix or suffix.

A **prefix** is found at the beginning of a word. Some common prefixes are: un-, re-, in-, im-, ir-, il-, dis-, en-, em-, non-, in-, im-, over-, mis-, sub-, pre-, inter-, fore-, de-, trans-, super-, semi-

For example: Adding the prefix “un-” changes the word *happy* to *unhappy*

A **suffix** is found at the end of a word. Some common suffixes are: -s, -es, -ed, -ing, -ly, -er, -or, -ion, -tion, -ation, -ition, -ible, -able, -al, -ial, -y, -ness, -ity, -ty, -ment

For example: Adding the suffix “ness” changes the word *happy* to *happyness*

[Click here](#) to watch a Brainpop Jr. video about prefixes.

[Click here](#) to play a game that will help you understand prefixes.

[Click here](#) to play a game that will help you understand suffixes.