

# Prefixes 1

A *prefix* is a set of letters at the beginning of a word that gives it a particular meaning. For example, the **pre-** at the beginning of *prefix*, *precede*, *predict* and *preface* means 'before'. You can also add prefixes to words to change their meaning:

**lucky + un = unlucky**

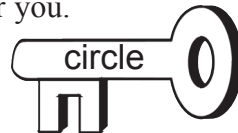
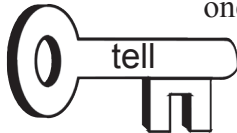
**spell + mis = misspell**

Can you match the prefixes in the top row with the words in the bottom row to make six new words? Draw lines between the pairs.

non-	super-	tele-	inter-	auto-	de-
phone	biography	national	sense	value	structure

## LOCKS AND KEYS

These prefixes have been detached from their words. Can you match them up into the correct pairs and then write the full word in the space underneath? The first one has been done for you.

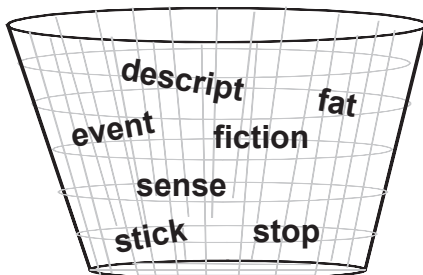


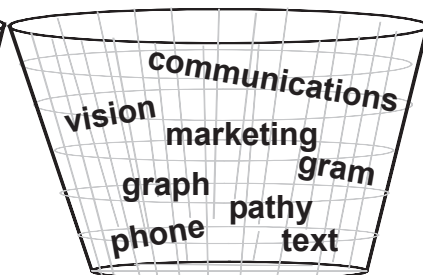
counterbalance \_\_\_\_\_  
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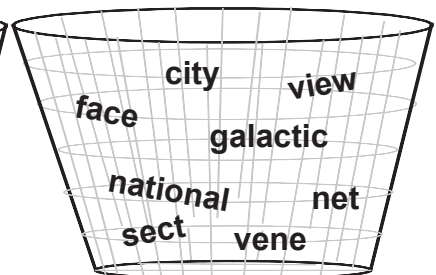


## BEHEADED!

These sets of words, or parts of words, used to begin with the same prefix, but they've had the prefixes chopped off. Can you think of a prefix that can be added to the start of each one in the set? Write it in the space underneath each basket.







**Adding prefixes**

Many prefixes are simply attached to the beginning of a word with no other change of spelling. For example, **dis-** + *appear* = *disappear*; **dis-** + *satisfied* = *dissatisfied*. This means that double letters are often created, as in *unnatural* or *immobile*.

The prefix **in-** changes to **il-** before words beginning with **l**, to **im-** before words beginning with **b**, **m** or **p**, and to **ir-** before words beginning with **r**. This creates words like:

- |                     |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| • <b>inability</b>  | <b>innumerable</b>  | <b>inorganic</b>    |
| • <b>illegal</b>    | <b>illegitimate</b> | <b>illogical</b>    |
| • <b>imbalance</b>  | <b>immoral</b>      | <b>impatient</b>    |
| • <b>irrational</b> | <b>irregular</b>    | <b>irresistible</b> |

Once again, the spelling of the original word stays the same.

**ADDING IN-**

The prefix **in-** is going to be added to the following words. But be careful! Sometimes the word starts with a letter which means **in-** has to change to **il-**, **im-** or **ir-**. Write the correct prefix in the circles. The first one has been done for you.

**ACCESSIBLE**    
  **MORTAL**    
  **SENSITIVE**  
 **LEGALITY**    
  **EXPENSIVE**  
 **RATIONAL**  
 **MATURE**  
 **LEGIBLE**    
  **RELEVANT**  
 **PERFECT**    
  **LOGICALLY**    
  **REGULAR**

**Prefixes with hyphens**

Most prefixes are attached without hyphens. Hyphens are sometimes used when a prefix ending in a vowel is attached to a word beginning with a vowel, especially the same vowel, for example *anti-aircraft*, *re-elect*, *co-operate*, *pre-eminent* and *micro-organism*. They are also used when a prefix is attached to a word beginning with a capital letter, for example *anti-Semitism*. Words with the prefix **self-** always have hyphens, for example *self-confident* and *self-defence*. Sometimes a hyphen is also added to avoid creating a misleading letter combination, such as **ew** in *pre-war*.