

## Prefixes 2

### Antonym prefixes

There are a number of prefixes that can be added to words to reverse their meaning. They include **un-**, **dis-**, **non-**, and the **in-/il-/im-/ir-** group. For example, *able* + **un-** = *unable*, and *please* + **dis-** = *displease*. Which prefix is used to create the antonym of each of the following words?

_____ patient	_____ certain	_____ legible
_____ existent	_____ contented	_____ regular

Some prefixes are antonyms themselves. For example, **pre** means 'before' and **post** means 'after', **sub** means 'below' and **super** means 'above', and **hypo** means 'below normal' and **hyper** means 'above normal'. Can you think of a word which uses each of these prefixes?

<b>pre</b>	_____	<b>post</b>	_____
<b>sub</b>	_____	<b>super</b>	_____
<b>hypo</b>	_____	<b>hyper</b>	_____
<b>over</b>	_____	<b>under</b>	_____

Most prefixes are used with all parts of speech, but sometimes different ones are used for adjectives and nouns. For example, you would say *unable* but *inability*, and *undecided* but *indecision*.

Which antonym prefixes would you add to *just* and *justice*? \_\_\_\_\_

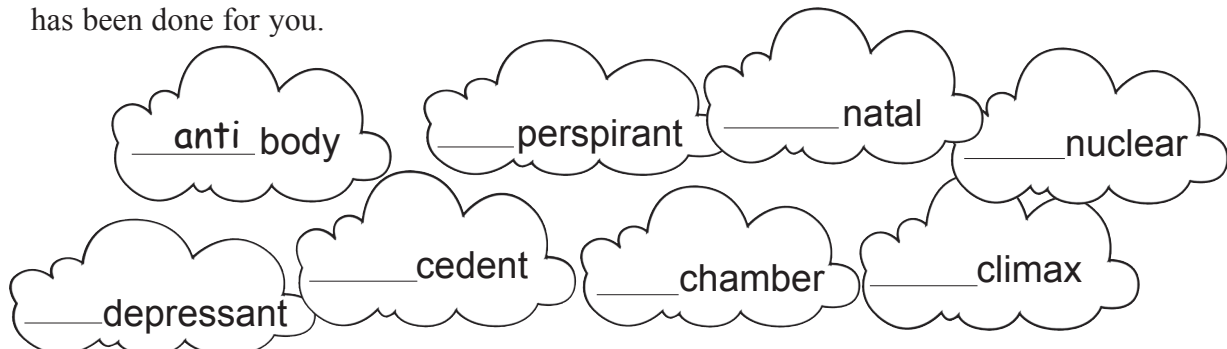
### Other meanings of prefixes

Here are some common prefixes with their meanings. Many come from ancient Greek or Latin words with this meaning. Understanding the meaning of prefixes can help you to spell new words. For example, if you know that **auto** means 'self', and you know that an *autograph* is written by a person himself or herself, then you can remember how to spell the first half of the word.

<b>auto</b> 'self': <b>automatic</b>	<b>bio</b> 'life': <b>biography</b>
<b>contra</b> 'against': <b>contradict</b>	<b>trans</b> 'across': <b>transport</b>
<b>aqua</b> 'water': <b>aquarium</b>	<b>mis</b> 'wrong': <b>mislead</b>
<b>de</b> 'undo': <b>dehydrate</b>	<b>re</b> 'again': <b>revisit</b>
<b>ex</b> 'out of': <b>extract</b>	<b>tele</b> 'distant': <b>telescope</b>

The prefixes **ante-** and **anti-** can cause spelling problems. **Ante-** means 'before', as in *antedate*, *antenatal* and *anteroom*. **Anti-** means 'against' or 'opposite', as in *anticlockwise*, *antifreeze* and *antisocial*.

Put the correct prefix, either **anti-** or **ante-**, in each cloud to make a new word. The first one has been done for you.



**Over to you**

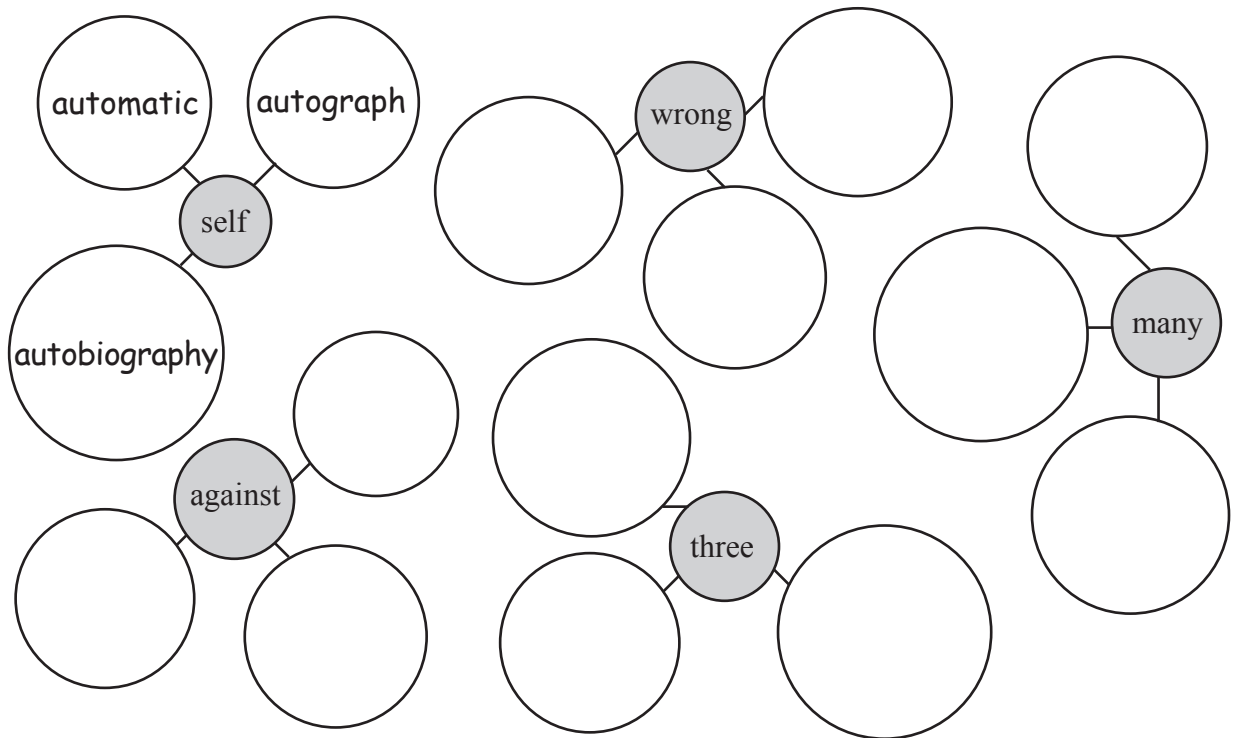
Here are some more groups of words with prefixes. Can you work out what each prefix means?

bicycle, binary, binoculars, biplane	_____
interaction, intercept, interlude, international	_____
microcosm, microfilm, microscope, microsurgery	_____
maladjusted, malformed, malfunction, malignant	_____
surcharge, surface, surmount, surpass	_____
multicoloured, multipurpose, multiracial, multiplication	_____
unicycle, uniform, unicorn, unilateral	_____

Now that you have worked out the meaning of these prefixes, can you think of another word which begins with each?

In the centre of these circles are the meanings of five prefixes. Can you fill in the words that are linked to each prefix in the circles? The first one has been done for you.

- |               |               |              |           |               |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|---------------|
| polygon       | autobiography | countersign  | misbehave | triangle      |
| counterweight | mistreat      | polygamy     | automatic | misquote      |
| autograph     | tricycle      | polysyllabic | triathlon | counterattack |



**Making new words**

New words are often created by adding prefixes to existing words. In recent years, the **eco-** prefix has given us *ecofriendly* and *ecotourism*, and the new prefix **e-**, meaning ‘electronic’, has given us *e-mail*, *e-commerce* and more.

It might be helpful to make a list of prefixes and their meanings in your Spelling Journal, and ‘collect’ lists of words that begin with each of them.