

# ELA Prefixes and Suffixes

Word parts that help students unlock meaning in language, literature, and academic vocabulary.

## Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning/Use	Example Words & Meanings
<b>pre-</b>	before	<b>prewrite</b> : plan before writing; <b>preview</b> : look over before reading
<b>post-</b>	after	<b>postscript</b> : note after a letter; <b>post-reading</b> : after reading
<b>re-</b>	again or back	<b>reread</b> : read again; <b>revise</b> : look back and improve writing
<b>un-</b>	not or reverse	<b>unclear</b> : not clear; <b>undo</b> : reverse an action
<b>dis-</b>	not or opposite	<b>disagree</b> : have an opposite view; <b>disconnect</b> : separate
<b>mis-</b>	wrongly or badly	<b>misread</b> : read incorrectly; <b>misspell</b> : spell incorrectly
<b>inter-</b>	between	<b>intertextual</b> : between texts; <b>interaction</b> : action between speakers
<b>intra-</b>	within	<b>intratextual</b> : within a text; <b>intrapersonal</b> : within one person
<b>sub-</b>	under or beneath	<b>subtext</b> : meaning beneath the words; <b>subplot</b> : secondary plot
<b>super-</b>	above or beyond	<b>superscript</b> : writing above a line; <b>supernatural</b> : beyond nature
<b>trans-</b>	across	<b>translate</b> : carry meaning across languages; <b>transition</b> : movement across ideas
<b>ex-</b>	out or former	<b>excerpt</b> : passage taken out; <b>expository</b> : writing that explains
<b>con-/com-</b>	together or with	<b>context</b> : words and ideas together; <b>compose</b> : put parts together
<b>auto-</b>	self	<b>autobiography</b> : life story by oneself; <b>autofiction</b> : fiction based on oneself

## Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning/Use	Example Words & Meanings
<b>-tion</b>	action or state	<b>narration</b> : act of telling; <b>description</b> : act of describing
<b>-ment</b>	process or result	<b>statement</b> : something stated; <b>development</b> : process of growing ideas
<b>-ness</b>	state or quality	<b>kindness</b> : quality of being kind; <b>darkness</b> : state of being dark
<b>-ity</b>	state or quality	<b>clarity</b> : quality of being clear; <b>complexity</b> : quality of being complex
<b>-er/-or</b>	doer or agent	<b>speaker</b> : person speaking; <b>narrator</b> : person telling a story
<b>-ist</b>	person who practices or studies	<b>novelist</b> : writer of novels; <b>linguist</b> : person who studies language
<b>-ism</b>	style, system, or belief	<b>realism</b> : style showing real life; <b>symbolism</b> : use of symbols
<b>-ize</b>	to make or cause	<b>summarize</b> : make a summary; <b>dramatize</b> : make into a drama
<b>-fy</b>	to make or cause	<b>clarify</b> : make clear; <b>simplify</b> : make simpler
<b>-able/-ible</b>	capable of being	<b>readable</b> : able to be read; <b>credible</b> : able to be believed
<b>-ive</b>	having a tendency or quality	<b>descriptive</b> : giving description; <b>persuasive</b> : trying to persuade
<b>-ous</b>	full of	<b>mysterious</b> : full of mystery; <b>joyous</b> : full of joy
<b>-al</b>	relating to	<b>fictional</b> : related to fiction; <b>grammatical</b> : related to grammar
<b>-ly</b>	manner or characteristic	<b>slowly</b> : in a slow way; <b>friendly</b> : having the quality of a friend