

# Math Prefixes and Suffixes

Word parts that help students unlock meaning in mathematics vocabulary.

## Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning/Use	Example Words & Meanings
<b>mono-</b>	one	<b>monomial</b> : expression with one term; <b>monochrome</b> : one color
<b>uni-</b>	one	<b>univariate</b> : involving one variable; <b>unit</b> : one whole used for measure
<b>bi-</b>	two	<b>binomial</b> : expression with two terms; <b>bisect</b> : divide into two equal parts
<b>tri-</b>	three	<b>triangle</b> : figure with three sides; <b>trinomial</b> : expression with three terms
<b>quad-/tetra-</b>	four	<b>quadrilateral</b> : four-sided figure; <b>tetrahedron</b> : solid with four triangular faces
<b>penta-</b>	five	<b>pentagon</b> : five-sided polygon; <b>pentomino</b> : shape made from five squares
<b>hexa-</b>	six	<b>hexagon</b> : six-sided polygon; <b>hexahedron</b> : solid with six faces
<b>hepta-</b>	seven	<b>heptagon</b> : seven-sided polygon; <b>heptagonal</b> : having seven angles
<b>oct-/octa-</b>	eight	<b>octagon</b> : eight-sided polygon; <b>octant</b> : one of eight coordinate regions
<b>deca-/deci-</b>	ten or one-tenth	<b>decagon</b> : ten-sided polygon; <b>decimal</b> : based on tens or tenths
<b>cent-/centi-</b>	hundred or one-hundredth	<b>percent</b> : per hundred; <b>centimeter</b> : one-hundredth of a meter
<b>milli-/kilo-</b>	thousandth or thousand	<b>millimeter</b> : one-thousandth of a meter; <b>kilometer</b> : one thousand meters
<b>semi-/hemi-</b>	half	<b>semicircle</b> : half circle; <b>hemisphere</b> : half sphere
<b>poly-</b>	many	<b>polygon</b> : many-sided figure; <b>polynomial</b> : expression with many terms

## Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning/Use	Example Words & Meanings
<b>-gon</b>	angle or sided figure	<b>polygon</b> : many-sided figure; <b>pentagon</b> : five-sided figure
<b>-hedron</b>	face or solid figure	<b>polyhedron</b> : solid with many faces; <b>tetrahedron</b> : solid with four faces
<b>-nomial</b>	term or named part	<b>binomial</b> : two-term expression; <b>polynomial</b> : expression with multiple terms
<b>-meter</b>	measure or measuring unit	<b>centimeter</b> : metric length unit; <b>perimeter</b> : measure around a figure
<b>-metry</b>	measurement or study of measure	<b>geometry</b> : measurement of space; <b>trigonometry</b> : triangle measurement
<b>-graph</b>	diagram or drawn record	<b>coordinate graph</b> : plotted diagram; <b>bar graph</b> : data shown with bars
<b>-gram</b>	written or recorded display	<b>histogram</b> : frequency graph; <b>diagram</b> : labeled visual display
<b>-oid</b>	resembling a shape	<b>cuboid</b> : solid like a cube; <b>spheroid</b> : almost spherical shape
<b>-fold</b>	multiplied by	<b>twofold</b> : doubled; <b>tenfold</b> : multiplied by ten
<b>-wise</b>	direction or manner	<b>clockwise</b> : in clock direction; <b>counterclockwise</b> : opposite direction
<b>-al</b>	relating to	<b>proportional</b> : related by ratio; <b>rational</b> : expressible as a ratio
<b>-ic</b>	relating to	<b>geometric</b> : related to geometry; <b>algebraic</b> : related to algebra
<b>-ity</b>	state or quality	<b>equality</b> : state of being equal; <b>continuity</b> : unbroken quality
<b>-able</b>	capable of being	<b>measurable</b> : able to be measured; <b>countable</b> : able to be counted