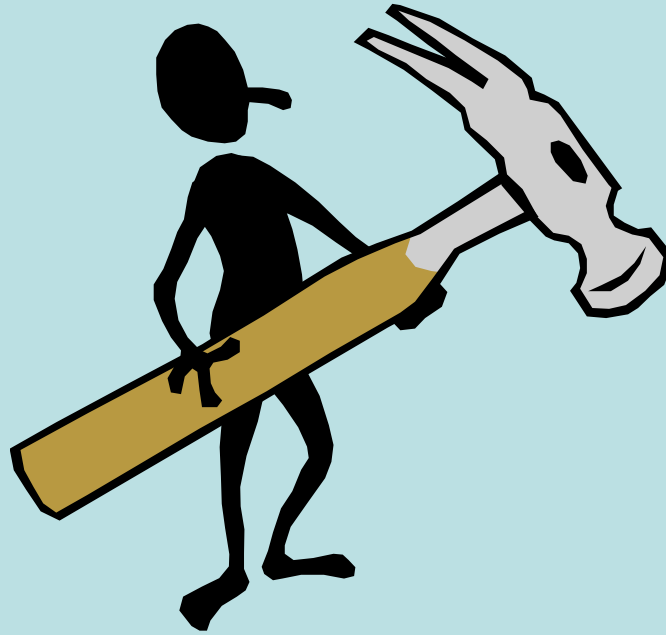


Word Origins



Prefixes

What is a Prefix?

Prefixes are letters added to the beginning of words. They often provide a clue to the meaning of a word. Knowledge of common prefixes can help you to gain an understanding of words which may not be familiar to you.

Look at the following words:

Autobiography

Automatic

Autograph

Automobile

*All these words begin with the prefix **auto**. What do the words have in common? What do you think the prefix **auto** means?*

What is a Prefix?

Auto comes from the Greek word for **self**.

Remember our words from the last slide?

- **Autobiography:** An account of a person's life written by themselves
- **Automatic:** A machine able to activate itself
- **Autograph:** To write your own signature
- **Automobile:** A self-propelling motor vehicle

Therefore words which begin with the prefix **auto** usually mean something about the **self**.



Working out words from prefixes

If you know the prefix you can often gain an idea about the meaning of an unfamiliar word.

Draw and complete the table opposite in your books. Write down two words that begin with each prefix then try to work out the prefix's meaning. The first one has been done for you.

Prefix	Word	Meaning
<i>Oct</i>	<i>Octagon</i> <i>octopus</i>	<i>eight</i>
<i>Semi</i>		
<i>Anti</i>		
<i>Mono</i>		
<i>tele</i>		
<i>sub</i>		
<i>pre</i>		

Check Your Understanding

Prefix	Word	Meaning
<i>oct</i>	<i>Octagon</i> <i>octopus</i>	<i>eight</i>
<i>semi</i>	<i>Semi-skimmed</i> <i>Semi-circle</i>	<i>half</i>
<i>anti</i>	<i>Antibody</i> <i>antisocial</i>	<i>against</i>
<i>mono</i>	<i>Monorail</i> <i>Monochrome</i>	<i>single</i>
<i>tele</i>	<i>Television</i> <i>Telephone</i>	<i>distant</i>
<i>sub</i>	<i>Submarine</i> <i>subway</i>	<i>under</i>
<i>pre</i>	<i>Preview</i> <i>prejudge</i>	<i>before</i>

Prefix Perfection Homework

A good knowledge of common prefixes will help you to develop your reading and writing skills.

Task!

Below is a list of common prefixes with Latin or Greek origins. Learn the table below for a test next week.

Prefix	Origin	Word	Meaning
<i>Ante</i>	<i>Latin</i>	<i>antenatal</i>	<i>Before</i>
<i>Hyper</i>	<i>Greek</i>	<i>hyperactive</i>	<i>Excessive</i>
<i>Contra</i>	<i>Latin</i>	<i>contraflow</i>	<i>Against</i>
<i>Poly</i>	<i>Greek</i>	<i>polyphonic</i>	<i>Many</i>
<i>Post</i>	<i>Latin</i>	<i>postscript</i>	<i>After</i>
<i>Tri</i>	<i>Greek</i>	<i>tricycle</i>	<i>three</i>
<i>multi</i>	<i>Latin</i>	<i>multicultural</i>	<i>many</i>

Prefix Perfection Task

Name: _____

Below is a list of common prefixes with Latin or Greek origins. Complete the table with the missing information. The first one has been done for you.

Prefix	Origin	Word	Meaning
<i>Ante</i>	<i>Latin</i>	<i>antenatal</i>	<i>Before</i>
<i>Hyper</i>			
<i>Contra</i>			
<i>Poly</i>			
<i>Post</i>			
<i>Tri</i>			
<i>multi</i>			