

Pip's Guide to Word Building: Prefixes & Suffixes

Master the art of word-building and supercharge your vocabulary!

- A prefix is a group of letters added to the start of a root word. For example, adding 're-' to 'play' creates 'replay', meaning to play again.
- A suffix is added to the end of a root word. Adding '-ful' to 'help' creates 'helpful', changing the word into an adjective.
- The prefix 'dis-' often means 'not' or 'the opposite of'. If you 'disagree', you do not agree.
- The suffix '-ly' is often used to turn an adjective into an adverb, such as changing 'quick' to 'quickly'.
- Always look for the root word first! If you cover up the prefix and the suffix, you can usually find the original meaning hiding in the middle.

Did you know? Did you know? The word 'unbelievable' is a champion word-builder! It has a prefix (un-), a root word (believe), and a suffix (-able). That means you can take apart big words like lego bricks to find their hidden meanings!

Key vocabulary: Root word · Prefix · Suffix · Meaning · Spelling · Grammar