

Thirty (30) root words, prefixes and suffixes provide the basis for more than 14,000 commonly used words in the English language!

Root, Prefix, Suffix	Meaning	Examples
Ab	Away from	Absolve, absent
Ad	To, toward	Adhere, advent
Co, con, com, col, cor	Together, with	Collaborate, congregate
De	Away, down, out of	Depose, deposit
Dis	Not, opposite	Disagreeable, disappointing
Ex	Out of, formerly	Exhausted, expatriate
In, im, il, ir	In, not	Imbedded, illegible
Pre	Before	Prehistoric, presume
Pro	Forward	Proactive, productive
Re	Back, again	Reunite, revisit
Un	Not, opposite	Unworthy, unreal
Able	Capable of, worthy of	Possible, culpable
Ance, ence, ancy, ency	Act or fact of doing, state, quality	Innocence, dependency
Er, or	Person or thing connected with, agent	Thinker, surveyor
Ful	Full of, abounding in	Thoughtful, bountiful
less	Without, free from	Shameless, homeless
Ly	Like, characteristic of	Quietly, humbly
Ment	State of, quality of	Excitement, enjoyment
Tion, sion, xion	Action, state result	Realization, apprehension
Phon	Sound, speech	phonology, phonograph
Tele	distance	Telepathy, telemarketer
Meter	Measure	Barometer, metrics
Cap	To seize, take or contain	Capitalize, incapacitate
Audio	To hear	Inaudible, audience
Vid, vis	To see or look at	Video, invisible
Spect	To observe, watch	Inspect, spectator
Inter	Between	Interview, interval
Sub	Under	Submarine, sub par
Mis	Wrong	Misguided, misaligned
Trans	Across or beyond	entrance, transcribe
<i>Tenere</i>	To have, hold	Tenacious, tenant
<i>Mittere</i>	To send, launch	Missile, message
<i>Facere</i>	To do, make	Manufacture, artifact
<i>scribere</i>	To write	Scribble, script

Source: The Threads of Reading: Strategies for Literacy Development, K. Tankersley (2003)