

Vocabulary Power

Lesson 15 Prefixes That Show Time and Space: *pro-*, *re-*, *pre-*

Prefixes, word parts added to the beginning of a base word or word root, can modify a word's meaning in many different ways. For example, all the vocabulary words in this lesson contain prefixes showing time or space. The box contains three of these time and space prefixes, their meanings, and an example of each.

Prefix	Meaning	Example
<i>pro-</i>	in front of	project
<i>re-</i>	back	recall
<i>pre-</i>	before	pretest

Word List

preamble

preponderance

recession

refugee

prelude

prostrate

redress

restoration

preoccupy

protrude

EXERCISE A Context Clues

Read the paragraph below, paying close attention to the context of the boldfaced words. Then, use your understanding of the prefixes explained above to choose the word that correctly matches the definition.

Last week, our class took a field trip to a Civil War battle site where historians have created a highly realistic **restoration** of the battle scene. As a **prelude** to the tour, we attended a lecture outlining the battle events. The **preponderance** of battle casualties were Confederate troops. As the battle continued, **refugees** fleeing the violence were driven off the road by the urgent **recession** of the Confederate cavalry seeking to avoid capture. Though the civilians left all their possessions behind, they were promised **redress** of their grievances against the Union army. At the gate entering the battle site, historians had posted a copy of the **Preamble** to the U.S. Constitution to remind us of the war's heart-wrenching impact on the nation. I was horrified by the battle imagery. Half-buried guns **protruded** from the ground and wounded soldiers lay **prostrate** as far as the eye could see. Even now, a week after our visit, the terrible images **preoccupy** my thoughts.

protruded

1. stuck out

restoration

6. reconstruction

redress

2. compensation

refugees

7. people fleeing

preoccupy

3. engage interest

recession

8. withdrawing

prelude

4. introductory event

preponderance

9. superiority in power

prostrate

5. stretched out

preamble

10. introduction to a law