



Prefix / Learn

Sky Sports has changed football. It used to be that the football coverage started at five to three, and there were only three cameras at the game. Nowadays there are player cameras, HD cameras, soft focus and long lens cameras. This is all great because you feel that you are actually at the game that you are watching. However the one thing that I hate is all the build up before the game. Just like the endless trailers at the cinema it seems to go on forever. These twenty minutes of stats and Ford adverts are known as the “prematch buildup.”



Pre means **before** and prefixes have long been popular hunting ground for examiners. So let's look and see what we need to know:

A prefix is a group of letters placed at the start of a root word to change its meaning. Some complicated words are less difficult to spell if you are familiar with prefixes.

A root word is a word that has nothing added at the beginning or the end. It stands on its own as a word. It has a meaning. New words can be made from root words by adding beginnings (prefixes) and endings (suffixes).

These are some root words.

use: **useless, usable, used, using, user, misuse**

employ: **employment, unemployment, employer, employee, employing**

manage: **manager, managing, manages, manageable, unmanageable**

Root words are called root words because other words grow from them.



Learn-Apply-Practise

Here are some common examples in the following list:

PREFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLES
anti-	Against or opposite to	Anticlockwise, antibiotic
auto-	Self	Autobiography, automat
dis-	Not, or away	Dissimilar, disconnect
in-	Not	Insane, inhuman
il-	Not	Illogical, illegal
im-	Not	Immature, improbable
ir-	Not	Irrelevant, irregular
inter-	Between	International,
mis-	Wrong	Misunderstand, misspell
post-	After	Postnatal, postscript
pre-	Before	Prenatal, prehistoric
pro-	For, or forward	Propose, pro-British
re-	Again, or back	Rewrite, reconsider
sub-	Under	Submarine, substandard
super-	Above	Supervisor, superhuman
trans-	Across	Transport, transplant
un-	Not, or in reverse	Unfinished, unarmed

An effective interactive activity can be found here.

<http://www.manythings.org/wbg/prefixes-jw.html>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/english/spelling_grammar/spelling/play.shtml

Activity

Draw a line matching the prefix with the meaning.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Re- (renew) | 1) wrong, bad |
| Pre- (preview) | 2) before |
| Mis- (misbehave) | 3) again, back |
| De- (deforestation) | 4) eight |
| Tele- (television) | 5) one, same, whole |
| Un- (unhappy) | 6) remove or reduce |
| Bi- (biweekly) | 7) twice, (two times) |
| Uni- (uniform) | 8) far, distant |
| Octo- (octopus) | 9) many, (usually more than two) |
| Sub- (subway) | 10) under or low 11) not |
| Multi- (multiple) | |

Answers

3 – re

2 - pre

1 – mis

6 - de

8 – tele

11 – un

7 - bi

5 - uni

4 - octo

10 - sub

9 - multi

Prefixes