
Common Prefixes, Suffixes, and Roots

The following list should help you to arrive at definitions of unfamiliar words in the Verbal section of the GRE. These prefixes, suffixes, and roots apply to thousands of words.

| Prefixes | | |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <i>Prefix</i> | <i>Meaning</i> | <i>Example</i> |
| ad- | to, toward | advance |
| anti- | against | antidote |
| bi- | two | bicycle |
| com- | together, with | composite |
| de- | away, from | deter |
| epi- | upon | epilogue |
| equi- | equal, equally | equivalent |
| ex- | out of | expel |
| homo- | same, equal, like | homogenized |
| hyper- | over, too much | hyperactive |
| hypo- | under, too little | hypodermic |
| in- | not | insufficient |
| in- | into | instruct |
| inter- | between | interstate |
| mal- | bad | malfunction |
| mis- | wrong | mistake |
| mono- | alone, one | monolith |
| non- | not | nonentity |
| ob- | against | objection |
| omni- | all, everywhere | omniscient |
| over- | above | overbearing |
| poly- | many | polymorphous |
| pre- | before | precede |
| pro- | forward | propel |
| re- | back, again | regress |
| retro- | backward | retrograde |
| semi- | half, partly | semicircle |
| sub- | under | submarine |
| trans- | across, beyond | transcend |
| un- | not | unnecessary |

Suffixes

| <i>Suffix</i> | <i>Meaning</i> | <i>Example</i> |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| -able, -ible | able to | usable |
| -er, -or | one who does | competitor |
| -ism | the practice of | rationalism |
| -ist | one who is occupied with | feminist |
| -less | without, lacking | meaningless |
| -ship | the art or skill of | statesmanship |
| -fy | to make | dignify |
| -ness | the quality of | aggressiveness |
| -tude | the state of | rectitude |
| -logue | a particular kind of speaking or writing | prologue |

Roots

| <i>Root</i> | <i>Meaning</i> | <i>Example</i> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| arch | to rule | monarch |
| belli | war, warlike | belligerent |
| bene | good | benevolent |
| chron | time | chronology |
| dic | to say | indicative |
| fac | to make, to do | artifact |
| graph | writing | telegraph |
| mort | to die | mortal |
| port | to carry | deport |
| vid, vis | to see | invisible |