

# ROOT WORDS AND AFFIXES

METHODS FOR DETERMINING THE MEANING OF UNKNOWN WORDS

# METHODS FOR DETERMINING THE MEANING OF MYSTERY WORDS

There are several methods that we can use to determine the meaning of unknown words in a text.

For example, we can use the context clues method to help us determine the meaning of unknown words.

Context clues—looked at the words around the unknown word to try to determine what the words mean.



**Put on your detective hat and solve unknown word mysteries using context clues!**

# ROOT WORD STRATEGY

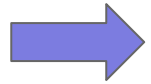
Another strategy that you can use to tackle unfamiliar words is to use root words.

The root is the base part of a word. The root carries the most significant aspects of a word, and cannot be reduced into smaller parts.

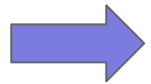
By knowing the root of a word, you can often guess the meaning of the word, even if you have never seen the word before.

# AFFIXES

Another helpful way to understand new words is to understand the meaning of affixes. You are most likely familiar with affixes since these are introduced early in elementary school as a foundation for spelling. Many new words are formed by adding an affix to the beginning or end of a root word.



When an affix is added to the beginning of a root or root word, it is called a prefix.



When an affix is added to the end of a root or root word, it is called a suffix.

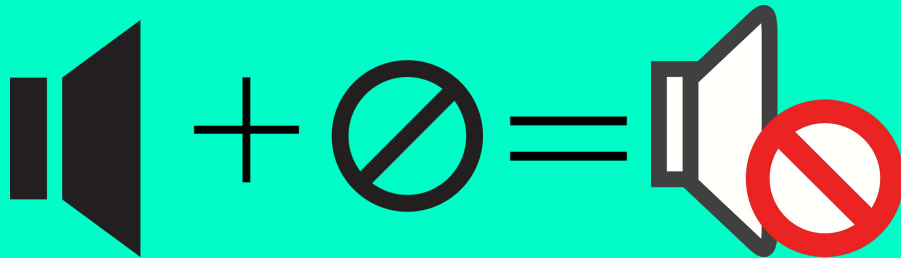
# PREFIXES

A prefix is a group of letters placed before the root of a word. For example, the word “unhappy” consists of the prefix “un-”, which means “not”, combined with the word “happy”. The word “unhappy” means “not happy.”

$$\text{Un} + \text{😊} = \text{😞}$$

# SUFFIXES

A suffix is a group of letters placed after the root of a word. For example, the word speechless consists of the root word “speech” combined with the suffix “-less”, which means “without”. The word “speechless” means “without speech or unable to speak.”



# SUFFIXES

The most common suffixes are -s and -es, which mean more than one (or the plural) of the word. Adding -es to wish, changes the meaning of the word to more than one wish.



# PRACTICE: STUDY COMMON PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

[Most Common Prefixes and Suffixes - Scholastic](#)



# 5 ROOT WORDS AND PREFIXES WE WILL STUDY THIS WEEK:

	Meaning	Example
audio	hear	audience, inaudible
auto	self	automobile, autocrat
circum	around	circulate, circumference
demos	people	democracy, epidemic
hyper	over, beyond	hypertension, hyperactive

# LOOK UP THE DEFINITIONS OF THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

inaudible-

autocrat-

epidemic-

hyperactive-

circumvent-

# MATCH EACH WORD WITH THE SENTENCE IT COMPLETES:

## Word Bank:

circumvent

hyperactive

inaudible

epidemic

autocrat

## Sentences:

The clever boy figured out a way to \_\_\_\_\_ the obstacle.

The 2017 flu season reached \_\_\_\_\_ levels.

My mother hates it when I mumble because my words are \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ ruled with absolute authority and continuously demonstrated the his powers were limitless.

My little brother is \_\_\_\_\_ if he has too much candy.