

Mini-lesson 49: Word Formation - Prefixes & Suffixes



Understand how prefixes and suffixes can change the meaning, function, or form of a word in English.

Explanation:

- ♦ **Prefixes** are added **before** a root word to change its meaning.
- ◆ Suffixes are added after a root word to change its word class (noun, adjective, verb, etc.) or meaning.

Common Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Meaning of the New Word
un-	not	unhappy	not happy
re-	again	rewrite	write again
dis-	opposite/negative	disagree	not agree
pre-	before	preview	see before
mis-	wrongly	misunderstand	understand wrongly
in-/im-	not	impossible	not possible



Common Suffixes

Suffix	Word Type	Example	New Word Type
-er/-or	noun	teach → teacher	person/job
-ness	noun	kind → kindness	state/quality
-able/-ible	adjective	read → readable	can be done
-ly	adverb	quick → quickly	how something is done
-ful	adjective	care → careful	full of
-ment	noun	develop → development	result of action

Notes:

- Many words can take both prefixes and suffixes (e.g., unhappiness = un- + happy + -ness).
- Be careful: not all combinations are valid! You can't just stick a prefix or suffix on any word.



🥖 P	ractice 1 – Add a suitable prefix to create the opposite:
1.	correct
2.	agree
3.	possible
4.	understand
5.	appear
	ractice 2 – Add a suitable suffix to complete the new word:
	teach →
2.	happy →
3.	move →
4.	use →
5.	quick →
	ractice 3 – Complete the sentences with a word formed from the word in otherses:
1.	The movie was very (enjoy)
2.	He's a very person. (care)
3.	I always try to act (polite)
4.	She showed great during the exam. (nervous)
5.	We need your before we continue. (agree)





Practice 1 (Prefixes):

- 1. incorrect
- 2. disagree
- 3. impossible
- 4. misunderstand
- 5. disappear

Practice 2 (Suffixes):

- 1. teacher
- 2. happiness
- 3. movement
- 4. useful
- 5. quickly

Practice 3 (Sentences):

- 1. enjoyable
- 2. careful
- 3. politely
- 4. nervousness
- 5. agreement