GENERAL

master list of morphemes suffixes prefixes roots suffix

Published: September 3, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Introduction

Language is a living organism that constantly evolves, yet its building blocks remain remarkably stable. At the core of every word lies a **morpheme**– the smallest unit of meaning that can stand alone or combine with other morphemes to create new words. Whether you're a student, a writer, or simply a curious mind, mastering the list of morphemes, including suffixes, prefixes, roots, and suffixes, can unlock a deeper understanding of English and improve your communication skills.

In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore the world of morphemes, present a master list that covers the most common affixes and roots, and show you how to use this knowledge to expand your vocabulary, improve spelling, and gain insights into the etymology of everyday words.

What Are Morphemes?

A **morpheme**is the smallest meaningful unit in a language. While it cannot be broken down into smaller meaningful parts, it can combine with other morphemes to form words or word families. Morphemes fall into two primary categories:

- Free morphemes – can stand alone as words (e.g., book, happy, run).
- Bound morphemes – cannot stand alone and must attach to other morphemes (e.g., prefixes like un-, suffixes like -ness, and inflectional endings).

Understanding morphemes is essential because they reveal the structure and meaning behind words. By recognizing a root and its affixes, you can deduce the meaning of unfamiliar words and even predict how they will behave in different grammatical contexts.

Prefixes: Adding Meaning to the Beginning

Prefixes are bound morphemes that attach to the front of a root word, altering its meaning or grammatical function. Here's a curated list of some of the most frequently used English prefixes, grouped by their semantic fields.

Common Prefixes and Their Meanings

1. Un- – Not, opposite of (e.g., unhappy, undo)
2. Re- – Again, back (e.g., redo, replay)
3. Dis- – Opposite, remove (e.g., disagree, disconnect)
4. Pre- – Before (e.g., preview, preheat)
5. In- / Im- / Il- / Ir- – Not, into, against (e.g., incomplete, impossible, illegal, irregular)
6. Mis- – Wrong, badly (e.g., misunderstand, misplace)
7. Over- – Excessive (e.g., overreact, overestimate)
8. Under- – Below, insufficient (e.g., underestimate, underwater)
9. Anti- – Against (e.g., antibiotic, antisocial)
10. Pro- – In favor of, forward (e.g., proactive, promote)
11. Inter- – Between, among (e.g., international, interact)
12. Sub- – Under, below (e.g., submarine, subconscious)

13. Super- – Above, beyond (e.g., superhero, supernatural)
14. Trans- – Across, beyond (e.g., transport, transcend)
15. Co- / Con- / Com- / Comp- – With, together (e.g., cooperate, contribute, combine, compete)
16. De- – Remove, reverse (e.g., deactivate, devalue)
17. En- / Em- – Make, put into (e.g., enrich, emphasize)
18. Ex- – Former, out of (e.g., exhale, exile)
19. Non- – Not (e.g., nonexistent, nonprofit)
20. Post- – After (e.g., postpone, postmortem)

How to Use Prefixes Effectively

When encountering an unfamiliar word, try to isolate its prefix. Recognizing that *un-* means "not" can instantly tell you that *unfair* is the opposite of *fair*. Similarly, *re-* signals repetition or reversal, so *replay* means to play again. Practice this mental exercise to build intuition for word meanings.

Suffixes: Shaping Meaning at the End

Suffixes are bound morphemes that attach to the end of a root or stem, often changing the word's grammatical category or nuance. Below is a master list of frequently encountered English suffixes, categorized by their functions.

Suffixes That Change Word Class

- -ness – Noun from adjective (e.g., happiness, darkness)
- -ment – Noun from verb (e.g., development, management)
- -tion / -sion / -cion – Noun from verb (e.g., creation, decision)
- -ity / -ty – Noun from adjective (e.g., responsibility, harmony)
- -ity – Noun indicating state or quality (e.g., activity, curiosity)
- -er / -or – Noun or adjective denoting agent (e.g., teacher, actor)
- -ist – Noun denoting profession or ideology (e.g., artist, scientist)
- -ful – Adjective meaning "full of" (e.g., joyful, helpful)
- -less – Adjective meaning "without" (e.g., careless, hopeless)
- -able / -ible – Adjective meaning "capable of" (e.g., readable, possible)
- -ous / -eous / -ious – Adjective meaning "full of" (e.g., dangerous, curious)
- -ing – Present participle or gerund (e.g., running, singing)
- -ed – Past tense or adjective (e.g., walked, excited)
- -ly – Adverb from adjective (e.g., quickly, happily)
- -ic – Adjective from noun (e.g., historic, electric)
- -ive – Adjective or noun indicating tendency (e.g., creative, active)
- -al – Adjective or noun indicating relation (e.g., national, regional)
- -ate – Verb or adjective from noun (e.g., activate, agitate)
- -en – Verb from adjective or noun (e.g., strengthen, golden)
- -dom – Noun indicating state or realm (e.g., freedom, kingdom)
- -hood – Noun indicating state or condition (e.g., childhood, neighborhood)
- -ship – Noun indicating status or condition (e.g., friendship, relationship)

Suffixes That Add Nuance or Emotion

- -ish – Adjective or noun indicating similarity (e.g., foolish, childish)
- -ward / -wards – Directional (e.g., forward, backwards)
- -like – Adjective meaning "resembling" (e.g., childlike, birdlike)
- -some – Adjective meaning "causing" or "full of" (e.g., awesome, fearsome)

- -y – Adjective indicating characteristic (e.g., rainy, noisy)

Using Suffixes to Build Word Families

Suffixes are powerful tools for expanding your vocabulary. For instance, starting with the root *act*(to do), you can create:

- action (noun) – the act of doing
- active (adjective) – full of action
- actor (noun) – one who performs actions
- activate (verb) – to cause to act

By mastering suffixes, you can quickly generate related words and understand their meanings

Baca Juga (Artikel Terkait)

- **advanced engineering electromagnetics solution manual edition hardcover by balanis constantine a published by wiley**
  URL: http://blueesystems.com/advanced-engineering-electromagnetics-solution-manual-edition-hardcover-by-balanis-constantine-a-published-by-wiley.pdf
- **advanced engineering electromagnetics solutions manual**
  URL: http://blueesystems.com/advanced-engineering-electromagnetics-solutions-manual.pdf
- **advanced engineering electromagnetics wiley 1989 grading**
  URL: http://blueesystems.com/advanced-engineering-electromagnetics-wiley-1989-grading.pdf
- **advanced engineering fluid mechanics by biswas**
  URL: http://blueesystems.com/advanced-engineering-fluid-mechanics-by-biswas.pdf

Tags: #master #list #morphemes #suffixes #prefixes #roots #suffix