



# SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

(An Autonomous Institution)  
Coimbatore-35



## Word Formation – Prefixes and Suffixes

Prefix are used before a root word to form a new meaning to it. In the case of prefixes such as ‘non’ and ‘ex’, add a hyphen in between the prefix and the root word. Example: *non-violence*, *ex-serviceman*. Some commonly used prefixes are (**un, dis, mis, re, ir, il, im, de, en, inter, mono, non, anti**)

disorganized	inattentive	impolite
antigravity	unemployed	mislead
nonstop	disable	injustice
unreliable	illegal	dislike
inactive	irregular	illogical
unknown	nonfiction	unexpected
disloyal	discover	antidote
undo	unable	anticlimax

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
anti-	against, opposite of	<u>anticlimax</u> , antiaircraft, antiseptic, antibody
auto-	self, same	autopilot, <u>autobiography</u> , automobile, autofocus
dis-	not, apart, away	disappear, disagreeable, disbar, dissect
ex-	out of, from, former	extract, exhale, excavate, ex-president
hyper-	over, more, beyond	hyperactive, hypersensitive, hypercritical
il-, im-, in-, ir-	not, without	illegal, immoral, inconsiderate, irresponsible
inter-	between, among	International,
un-	not, lacking, opposite of	unfinished, unskilled, ungraceful, unfriendly

### Suffixes are added at the end of the rootword.

1. When a word ends with ‘y’, remove the ‘y’, add an ‘i’, ‘al’ or ‘ly’.

Example: try - trying, happy - happily.

2. When the root word ends in the letter “ce” or “ge”, add suffix “a” or “o”

Example: advantage – advantageous, courage – courageous,

3. If the word suffix is “ly” then keep the “e” in word

Example: late – lately, definite – definitely, love – lovely, rare – rarely

Some commonly used suffixes are ( **-y/ -ly / -less / -ful / -er / -or / -ness / -able / -ment / -al / -ary / ous / -ian / -ity** )

fearless	arrangement	helpful	brotherly	happiness
accidental	weakness	understandable	loudness	courageous
thoughtful	kindness	Careful/careless	homeless	fashionable
friendly	waterless	jealousy	speechless	Environmental
popularity	clearly	hopeful	madness	suitable
Comfortless/able	encouragement	deplorable	painful	dangerous

### Exercise 1

#### Choose the correct prefix and suffix

1. The kids always play together. They never disagree or have an **argument**. (argue)
2. She looked **unhappy** (happy). She started to cry.
3. He passed his exam. He was **successful** (succeed) for the second time.
4. The team that he supported was able to win the **championship** (champion)
5. I couldn't find any **weakness** (weak) in his theory.
6. He wants to be a **mathematician** (mathematics) when he grows up.
7. There were only a **handful** (hand) of people at the match.
8. The road was too narrow, so they had to **widen** (wide) it.
9. I think that you should **reconsider** (consider) your decision. It may not be the best thing to do
10. You need a **combination** (combine) of motivation and hard work to achieve your dreams.
11. When my sister first saw the meteor, she thought it was a **supernatural** (natural) phenomenon.
12. His support gives the case **legitimacy** (legitimate).
13. Jane is the most **graceful** (grace) dancer in the group
14. Dogs are great for those looking for **companionship** (companion)

15. The doctors have advised her to be **stress-free** (stress) only then she can overcome the **weakness** (weak).

### Exercise 2

Complete the table by adding correct suffix to the words.

Verb	Noun	Adjective	Noun
educate	<b>education</b>	stupid	<b>stupidness</b>
improve	<b>improvement</b>	happy	<b>happiness</b>
jog	<b>jogging</b>	weak	<b>weakness</b>
govern	<b>government</b>	similar	<b>similarity</b>
spell	<b>spelling</b>	active	<b>activity</b>
hesitate	<b>hesitation</b>	sad	<b>sadness</b>
arrange	<b>arrangement</b>	popular	<b>popularity</b>

### Exercise 3

Add the correct prefix to the word to complete each sentence.

(non, pre, dis, il, anti, un, re, super, im )

- 1- I wanted to ease my stomach \_\_\_\_\_comfort, so I drank some ginger root tea.
- 2- Lenny looked funny in his \_\_\_\_\_matched shirt and pants.
- 3- Penelope felt \_\_\_\_\_glamorous at the party because she was the only one not wearing a dress.
- 4- My mother said those \_\_\_\_\_aging creams do not work, so I should not waste my money on them.
- 5- The child's \_\_\_\_\_standard performance on the test alarmed his parents.
- 6- When my sister first saw the meteor, she thought it was a \_\_\_\_\_natural phenomenon.
- 7- Even though she got an excellent job offer, Cherie did not want to \_\_\_\_\_locate to a different country.
- 8- With a small class size, the students get to \_\_\_\_\_act with the teacher more frequently.
- 9- I slipped on the ice because I did not heed the \_\_\_\_\_cautions about watching my step.
- 10- A \_\_\_\_\_combatant is another word for civilian.

## Answers

1. dis
2. un
3. non
4. anti
5. non
6. super
7. dis
8. re
9. pre
10. non

## Exercise 4

Complete the table with correct form of word.

NOUN	VERB	ADJECTIVE
Achieve		Achievable
Evaporate	evaporation	
Inform	information	
glory		Glorious
	significance	significant
Enthuse	enthusiasm	
	requirement	required
Motive		Motivated

## Answer

1. achievement
2. Evaporating
3. Informative
4. glorify
5. Signify
6. Enthusiastic
7. Require
8. Motivation