



# Prefixes — 'under' 'over' 'en' and 'em'

A prefix is a letter or group of letters that can be added to the beginning of a word to make a new word.

'over-' is a prefix.

over



load

overload

'load' is the root word.

The spelling of the root word does not change when a prefix is added.

Prefixes can tell us useful information about a root word.

'over-' means 'over' or 'too much'

'under-' means 'under' or 'too little'

1 Add over- or under- to the sentences below so that they make sense.

I .....slept today and was nearly late for school.

Our garden looks a mess — it's so .....grown.

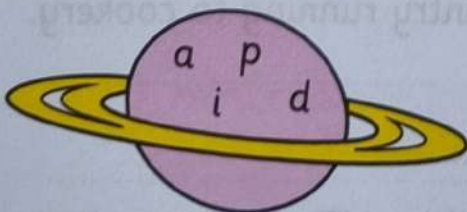
Work was stressful today because we were .....staffed.

Deserts are usually .....populated areas of the world.

I hate it when trains are .....crowded.

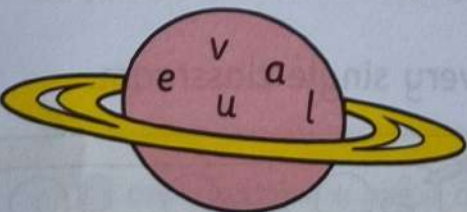
Neil doesn't have the skills to do the job — he's .....qualified.

2 Sort the letters below into the right order to spell a root word.  
Add over- and under- to the word to make two new words.



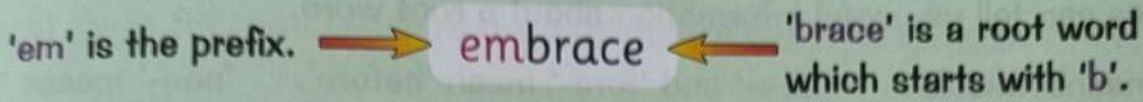
root word

new words



The prefixes 'en-' and 'em-' can sometimes mean 'to put into'.

'Em' is used instead of 'en' when the root word starts with a 'b' or 'p'.



3 Add en- or em- to complete each word correctly.

- ..... bolden
- ..... courage
- ..... act
- ..... rage
- ..... pathise
- ..... power
- ..... danger
- ..... circle
- ..... force

4 Use the clues to work out each word beginning with en- or em-.

make larger → 

		l			g
--	--	---	--	--	---

		l		v		
--	--	---	--	---	--	--

 ← make lively

make bitter → 

		b			t		
--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--

		c			s	
--	--	---	--	--	---	--

 ← to surround

5 Write three sentences, each using one of the words below.

oversized  
.....  
.....

underrated  
.....  
.....

entangled  
.....  
.....

# Prefixes — 'mid' 'pre' 'fore' and 'non'



Prefixes can tell us useful information about a root word.

'mid-' means 'middle'. 'pre-' and 'fore-' mean 'before'. 'non-' means 'not'.

midfield

preview

forethought

nonadjustable

Remember — when you add a prefix, the spelling of the root word does not change.

1 Circle the prefixes in the sentences below.

The midterm test will take place on Tuesday.

If you would like to take part, you need to preregister.

The problem with pollution is at the forefront of the agenda.

2 Fill in the gaps in the words below using the correct prefixes from the box.

mid-

pre-

fore-

non-

.....mature .....head .....fiction

.....ground .....date .....way

.....summer .....week .....program

3 Complete the words in these sentences using mid-, pre-, fore- or non-.

Fortune tellers believe they can ..... see what will happen in the future.

To make sure we get a seat, we had better ..... book our tickets.

Cerys always has a ..... morning snack at her desk at work.

Barack was disappointed that he had ordered a ..... refillable drink.

The cricketer caught the ball in ..... air to win the match for his team.

A pink stretch limo pulled up in the ..... court of the house.

4 Circle the correct spelling of each word to complete the sentences below.

The weather midcast / forecast for the weekend looks awful.

Cheryl loves football — she's a great midfielder / forefielder.

The presection / midsection of the boat sprang a leak.

The toddlers play happily together at nonschool / preschool.

All the animals take a nap at midday / preday to avoid the heat of the sun.

Forewinter / Midwinter in the jungle is still very hot.

Three long distance runners were nonselected / preselected for the Olympics.

I'm looking forward to a quick foreview / preview of my friend's new film.

5 One word is spelt with the wrong prefix in each of the sentences below.  
Rewrite the sentences on the dotted lines so that all the words are spelt correctly.

The jungle ball ends at forenight with fireworks.

I can't understand my little brother — he speaks presense.

Crocodiles look like nonhistoric creatures.

The workers received instructions from the midman.

The children were at the prepoint of the project.



## Hyphenating Prefixes

Hyphens are used to **join words** together or **add a prefix**. Some words are written with hyphens so they **aren't confused** with similar words.

I re-sorted my papers.

I resorted to walking to work.

're-sorted' means 'to **sort again**'. It needs a hyphen to show that it means something **different** from 'resorted' which means 'to **turn to an undesirable option**'.

Hyphens are often used if the prefix ends in a **vowel** and the root word begins with a **vowel**.

CO-OWN

- 1 Underline the prefixes in the words below.  
Then rewrite the words with a hyphen in the correct place.

reexamine

reemerge

proAmerican

preorder

coordinate

coexist

- 2 Hyphens have been added incorrectly to the words below.  
Rewrite these words on the clipboard below with a hyphen in the correct place.

preo-wn

antiage-ing

reel-ect

reen-ter

proEuro-pean

antiAmer-ican

coow-ner



- 3 Circle the correct spelling of each word to complete the sentences below.

Penelope re-sent / resent her letter to the major after receiving no reply.

Brad didn't re-sent / resent the fact that Stu beat him in the 100 m hurdles.

We need to recover / re-cover our sofa — it's very tatty.

Ashley has still not recovered / re-covered from the operation.

Many people are against the government's plans for reform / re-form.

The synchronised swimmers re-formed / reformed to create a heart shape.

Henry used invisible ink by mistake, so he had to resign / re-sign the form.

Julie had an argument with her boss and decided to resign / re-sign.

After mixing up the documents, we had to re-sort / resort them.

We had to re-sort / resort to pushing our car to the garage.

- 4 Add a prefix and a hyphen to the root words below so the sentences make sense.

I help my friends as much as possible — it's good to .....operate.

Ann and Jim are .....authors of a best-selling novel.

No one applied for the job, so the position will be .....advertised.

- 5 Write a sentence using each of the following words.

co-operation

.....

anti-slavery

.....