



Using prefixes in reading

When you come across new words while reading, you can sometimes guess their meaning by looking at the **prefixes**.

Every prefix has its own meaning. When you add a prefix to a root word it changes the meaning of the root word.

For example, the prefix **sub** means 'below':

submarine = **sub** + **marine** meaning 'below the sea'.

substandard = **sub** + **standard** meaning 'below standard'.

Guess the meanings of the following prefixes by looking at the words they make:

Prefix	Prefix meaning	word 1	word 2	word 3
re-		replay	resend	replace
inter-		interactive	Intercity	interchangeable
mis-		misunderstand	misadjusted	misbehaviour
tri-		triangle	tripod	tricycle
pre-		prepay	precook	prefix

Now have a go at guessing these more difficult prefixes:

Prefix	Prefix meaning	word 1	word 2	word 3
auto-		autonomy	autobiography	autopilot
neo-		neonatal	neolithic	neo-nazi
circum-		circumference	circumstance	circumvent
poly-		polytechnic	polygon	polygamy
trans-		transport	transaction	transmission