

# PHILOLOGICAL SCIENCES

## ЗНАЧЕНИЯ ПРИСТАВОК В АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ)

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## MEANINGS OF PREFIXES IN ENGLISH WORD FORMATION

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### Аннотация

Приставками являются словообразовательные морфемы, предшествующие корню и изменяющие лексическое значение слова. Разные приставки могут употребляться с разными частями речи. Приставки могут придавать различные значения словообразованиям.

### Abstract

Prefixes are word-building morphemes, preceding root and changing the lexical-grammatical class. Different prefixes can be used with different parts of speech. Prefixes can add various meanings to newformed words.

**Ключевые слова:** приставки, словообразовательные морфемы, лексическое значение слова, разные части речи, лексико-грамматический класс, специфическая особенность.

**Keywords:** prefixes, word-building morphemes, the lexical meaning of the word, different parts of speech, a lexical-grammatical class, the specific characteristics.

It's common knowledge that there are four main kinds of word formation: prefixes, suffixes, conversion and compounds. This article is devoted to the word formation with the help of prefixes.

Cambridge Dictionary gives the following definition: "Prefixes are letters which we add to the beginning of a word to make a new word with a different meaning. Prefixes can create a new word opposite in meaning to the word the prefix is attached to. They can also make a word negative or express relation of time, place or manner." [5, Cambridge Dictionary].

Prefixes are word-building morphemes that are added to the beginning of the word before its base or stem. They are not words in their own right and cannot stand on their own in a sentence: if they are printed on their own, they have a hyphen after them.

Prefixes are added to the beginning of an existing word in order to create a new word with a different meaning. For example: space – cyberspace.

Some prefixes are part of our living language and people regularly use them to create new words for modern products, concepts, or situations: *biosecurity*, *multimedia*.

*Email* is an example of a word that was itself formed from a new prefix, *e-*, which stands for *electronic*. This modern prefix has formed an ever-growing number of other Internet-related words, including *e-book*, *e-cash*, *e-commerce*, and *e-tailor*.

When we add a prefix to the root word, the spelling of the root word doesn't usually change: *administration* – *maladministration*. We can add more than one prefix at a time to root words: *uninhabitable*: *Parts of the city were uninhabitable in the last decade*. Learning to recognize prefixes helps us to build our vocabulary and guess unknown words. [Clare, 2016: 37].

Different prefixes can be used with different parts of speech.

We use:

*anti-*: with adjectives and nouns: *antiviral*, *antimalarial*, *anticyclone*, *antihistamine*;

*de-*, *ir-*, *im-* and *un-*: with adjectives and adverbs: *declutter*, *decriminalised*, *irreplaceable*, *immoral*, *unable*, *unfortunately*, *univariably*;

*dis-*: is used with verbs, nouns, adjectives or adverbs: *disobey*, *disinformation*, *dishonorable*, *distasteful*.

*non-*: nouns, adjectives: *nondescript*, *non-conformity*;

*under-* and *over-*: nouns, adjectives, verbs: *understatement*, *undercooked*, *overexposed*;

*mal-* and *mis-*: verbs, abstract nouns, adjectives: *malnutrition*, *malnourished* *misbehaviour*: *The misbehaviour of some tourists has resulted in the historical site being temporarily closed*;

*pre-* and *post-*: adjectives: *prehistoric*, *pre-nuclear*, *post-nuclear*, *post-mortem*;

*pro-* and *anti-*: nouns and adjectives: *proactive*, *pro-government*, *anti-government*, *anti-establishment*, *antisocial*.

Prefixes can add various meanings to newformed words. Prefix *bi-* means *two*: *bimonthly twice every month*, *biannual*, *bicentenary*, *bilingual*, *bisexual*: *I became bilingual by interacting with French speakers from an early age*.

Prefix *co-* means *joint*: *co-author*, *co-pilot*, *cooperate*, *co-founders two people who founded a business together*. *Every passenger needs to know that they have a capable captain and co-pilot*.

Prefix *down-* means *reduce* or *lower*: *downgrade*, *downhearted*. *She hides her most downhearted face*.

Such prefix as *in* has negative meaning and can be used with adjectives, nouns and adverbs: inadequate, inedible, insufficient, inability, injustice, inaccuracy, inappropriately, informally, insensitively. We can find cases when *in-* doesn't change the meaning to negative: invariably, invaluable: *Tom's expertise on this project is invaluable.*

Speaker's attitude or opinion can be shown by means of the prefixes *pro-* and *anti-* (*against*): pro-democracy, pro-European, antihero, antisocial. The English prefix *inter-* means between/among: interacting, interchangeable, intercontinental, international *between or among nations.*

The prefix *mini-* is used in the meaning 'small': miniskirt, minicab, minimize, minibar - *a small bar, or drinks in a small fridge, in your hotel room.* When we want to emphasize that something is bigger or greater than something else, we use *out-*: outsell, outplay, outlast, outgrow - *grow too big for some of your clothes.*

The prefix *semi-* means half: semi-retired, semi-skimmed, semicircle - *a circle cut in half*, semicolon.

*Sub-* means below: sub-zero, subtitle, subway, sub-plot *a secondary plot that isn't in the main story.* The prefix *super-* is more/more powerful/larger: supermodel, supernatural, superpower, superhero - *a hero who has amazing powers.*

The prefixes with the concrete reference to a size or a degree are *under-* and *over-*: undertake, underrated, overrated, overactive, overcrowded, overpopulated. Someone who isn't the minimum age to see an X-certificate film is *underage*. Someone who doesn't have enough qualifications to get a job is *underqualified*. The time you spend working in your job in addition to your normal working hours is *overtime*. People who are forced to work too much or too hard are *overworked*.

*Mal-* and *mis-* mean wrong or bad: malfunctioning, maladministration, malnutrition, misbehavior, mismanaged, misfortune.

The prefixes *pre-* and *post-* mean time/before or after: pre-dates, pre-Katrina, post-war. For instance, the generation who were born before the war is *pre-war*.

The period of history before written records is *prehistoric*. A university course taken after you graduate from your initial course is *postgraduate*.

Negative/opposites/reverse can be expressed by the prepositions *de-*, *ir-*, *im-*, *non-*, *un-*: degenerate, depopulated, detox, irreplaceable, irreversible, immortalised, impossible, non-conformity, non-descript, non-profit, unknown, unaware, unfortunately.

To conclude, prefixes are word-building morphemes, preceding root and changing the lexical meaning of the word, but in most cases not influencing if the word belongs to a certain lexical-grammatical class.

Some of the specific characteristics of the English language are that one morpheme words play a great role in the language's lexicon and also that some parts of the speech are not necessarily defined by its morphological structure. [Арнольд, 2012: 131].

Otherwise prefixation took part throughout the history of the English language and still remains important and productive way of word formation.

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