

Handout 3.5 B: Most Common Prefixes in Descending Order

Prefix	Meaning	Example
un-	not, opposite of	unable
re-	again	reread
in-, im-, ir-, ill-	not	inactive, immature, irregular, illegal
dis-	not, opposite of	dishonest
en-, em-	cause to	enable,
non-	not	empower
in-, im-	in or into	nonfiction
over-	too much	inside, implant
mis-	wrongly	overdue
sub-	under	misbehave
pre-	before	submarine
inter-	between	preheat
fore-	before	international
de-	opposite of	foreground
trans-	across	deactivate
super-	above	transport
semi-	half	supernatural
anti-	against	semicircle
mid-	middle	antislavery

Adapted from Blevins, 1998

Most Common Inflectional Endings and Suffixes in Descending Order

Suffix or ending	Meaning	Example
-s, -es	plurals	cats, dishes
-ed	past-tense verbs	landed, smelled, wished
-ing	verb form/present participle	renting
-ly	characteristic of	gladly
-er, -or	person connected with	painter, director
-ion, -tion, -ation, -ition, -sion	act, process	tension, attention, imagination