

**Lesson**  
**6**

# Prefixes and Base Words

Teaching

Often you can figure out the meaning of a word by breaking it into parts and then looking at the meaning of each part. One kind of word part is a **prefix**, which can be attached to the beginning of a word. A **base word** is a word that can stand alone. Look at the examples below.

*inaudible reunite*

The prefix *in-* means "not." The base word *audible* means "able to be heard." Thus, the word *inaudible* means "not able to be heard." The prefix *re-* means "again."

The base word *unite* means "to bring together." Thus, the word *reunite* means "to bring together again." Now look at the chart below.

Prefix	Meaning	Example
<i>dis-</i>	not, opposite	disagree, dismount
<i>im-, in-</i>	not	impossible, inactive
<i>mis-</i>	wrong, not	miscount, misbehave
<i>re-</i>	carry, back	recook, resale
<i>sub-</i>	under, below	submarine, subway
<i>super-</i>	above, beyond	superpower, supernatural
<i>trans-</i>	across	transplant, transatlantic
<i>un-</i>	not	uncertain, unconscious

## A. Prefixes and Base Words in Action

For each example in Column A, draw a line between the prefix and the base word. Then match each example with its correct meaning in Column B by writing the letter in the blank. Use a dictionary if necessary.

### Column A

1. misfortune \_\_\_\_\_
2. indelicate \_\_\_\_\_
3. unfounded \_\_\_\_\_
4. recycle \_\_\_\_\_
5. dishonest \_\_\_\_\_
6. immature \_\_\_\_\_
7. transcontinental \_\_\_\_\_
8. supersonic \_\_\_\_\_
9. unsettled \_\_\_\_\_
10. subsoil \_\_\_\_\_

### Column B

- A. not in order
- B. bad luck
- C. to use again
- D. offensive or in bad taste
- E. from coast to coast
- F. faster than the speed of sound
- G. childish
- H. layer of earth below the surface
- I. not truthful
- J. not based on fact or evidence

# Prefixes and Base Words

*More Practice*

## B. Vocabulary in Action

Circle ten words that begin with the prefixes *dis-*, *im-/in-*, *mis-*, *re-*, and *un-* in the passage below. Then write a prediction of each example's meaning. Use your knowledge of word parts and context clues to figure out what the words mean.

"Halt! snorted the dragon as he uncurled himself from his nap. "How dare you dishonor my home?" Will, a bold knight, declared "I will dislodge you from this place and rearrange your features with my fists." "You incompetent twit," roared the dragon. "Do you not know that I am immortal? You cannot kill me, though you may dislocate my shoulder if you are very strong. Then, after I've conquered you I will have you for dinner, either boiled or uncooked, it's all the same to me." "Perhaps I've misjudged you, sir" stammered Will the Bold. "I will readjust my plans and perhaps come to fight you another day."

	Prefix	Base Word	Meaning
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____

## C. Vocabulary Challenge

Each prefix below can be added to the three base words provided. Choose the correct new word to write in the blank for each sentence.

- un-* (welcome, usual, certain) I am \_\_\_\_\_ of my performance on yesterday's math test.
- im-* (perfect, possible, polite) The climbers found it \_\_\_\_\_ to make the summit.
- dis-* (respect, count, place) The new development will \_\_\_\_\_ the wetlands.
- mis-* (place, judge, lead) I often \_\_\_\_\_ how far I can run.