

# Suffixes and Prefixes

Sometimes it is possible to understand the meaning of a word by examining its parts, including its roots or base words, suffixes and prefixes. A **suffix** is a word part added to the end of a root or base word, while a **prefix** is a word part added to the beginning of a root or base word.

The word *subconscious*, for example, is formed by adding the prefix *sub-* to the word *conscious*. The prefix *sub-* means "under," "beneath," or "below." *Subconscious* thoughts exist below or beneath a person's level of awareness.

**Explore Suffixes and Prefixes** Use a dictionary to look up each suffix and prefix listed on the chart below and write its meaning in the second column. In the third column, write at least two words that contain the suffix or prefix. Try to include some words from "Flowers for Algernon."

| Suffix          | Meaning | Words |
|-----------------|---------|-------|
| 1. <i>-ful</i>  |         |       |
| 2. <i>-less</i> |         |       |
| 3. <i>-hood</i> |         |       |
| 4. <i>-ive</i>  |         |       |
| 5. <i>-ize</i>  |         |       |
| 6. <i>-ist</i>  |         |       |
| Prefix          | Meaning | Words |
| 7. <i>phys-</i> |         |       |
| 8. <i>com-</i>  |         |       |
| 9. <i>lin-</i>  |         |       |
| 10. <i>un-</i>  |         |       |