Prefixes and Suffixes

Standard difficulty · 20 questions · 40 marks · Time: 36 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: ____ / 40

Write full answers in Sections B and C. Answers are on the last page — try every question first!

Section A — Choose the correct answer — 8 × 1 = 8 marks

1. What does the prefix “re-” mean in “rebuild”?
   (a) relating to **(b)** without
   (c) the state or time of being **(d)** again

2. What does the suffix “-ly” mean in “quickly”?
   (a) in a way that is **(b)** the state or quality of
   (c) between **(d)** not

3. What does the prefix “over-” mean in “overcook”?
   (a) the state or time of being **(b)** too much
   (c) a person skilled in **(d)** to make or become

4. What does the suffix “-ise” mean in “modernise”?
   (a) to make or become **(b)** against
   (c) too much **(d)** many

5. Which word has a suffix meaning “the act or process of”?
   (a) preheat **(b)** creation **(c)** unhappy **(d)** quickly

6. Which word has a prefix meaning “again”?
   (a) rewrite **(b)** overcook **(c)** kindness **(d)** triangle

7. Which word has a suffix meaning “without”?
   (a) fearless **(b)** teacher **(c)** creation **(d)** misspell

8. Which word has a suffix meaning “the act or result of”?
   (a) illegal **(b)** development **(c)** irregular **(d)** overcook

Section B — Short answer — 8 × 2 = 16 marks

9. Split each word into its root word and its prefix or suffix: “government”, “multinational”.

10. Split each word into its root word and its prefix or suffix: “irregular”, “bicycle”.

11. Split each word into its root word and its prefix or suffix: “education”, “subway”.

12. Split each word into its root word and its prefix or suffix: “inactive”, “homeless”.

13. Join the parts to make a new word: (a) un- + happy (b) farm + “-er”

14. Join the parts to make a new word: (a) im- + possible (b) im- + polite

15. Join the parts to make a new word: (a) pre- + heat (b) tri- + angle

16. Join the parts to make a new word: (a) under- + estimate (b) courage + “-ous”

Section C — Longer answers — 4 × 4 = 16 marks

17. Make the OPPOSITE of each word by adding a prefix: “legal”, “happy”, “kind”, “symmetrical”.

18. Write the root word and the suffix of each: “fearless”, “helpful”, “friendship”, “artist”. What does each suffix mean?

19. Write the prefix in each word and what it means: “bicycle”, “unhappy”, “inactive”, “irresponsible”.

20. Give the meaning of each and write one word that uses it: “-al”, “-hood”, “dis-”.

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Answer key

Prefixes and Suffixes · AW-8E-AFX-2026-V1 · For parents — fold back or tear off before handing the sheet to your child.

Q	Answer	Working
1	**(d) again**	rebuild = re- + build
2	**(a) in a way that is**	quickly = quick + “-ly”
3	**(b) too much**	overcook = over- + cook
4	**(a) to make or become**	modernise = modern + “-ise”
5	**(b) creation**	creation = create + “-tion”
6	**(a) rewrite**	rewrite = re- + write
7	**(a) fearless**	fearless = fear + “-less”
8	**(b) development**	development = develop + “-ment”
9	**government = govern + “-ment”; multinational = multi- + national**	—
10	**irregular = ir- + regular; bicycle = bi- + cycle**	—
11	**education = educate + “-tion”; subway = sub- + way**	The spelling of the root can change a little when a suffix is added.
12	**inactive = in- + active; homeless = home + “-less”**	—
13	**(a) unhappy (b) farmer**	un- means "not"; -er means "a person who".
14	**(a) impossible (b) impolite**	im- means "not"; im- means "not".
15	**(a) preheat (b) triangle**	pre- means "before"; tri- means "three".
16	**(a) underestimate (b) courageous**	under- means "too little"; -ous means "full of; having".
17	**illegal, unhappy, unkind, asymmetrical**	Prefixes that mean "not": un-, im-, dis-, il-, ir-, in-, non-, a-
18	**fearless = fear + “-less” (without); helpful = help + “-ful” (full of); friendship = friend + “-ship” (the state or relationship of); artist = art + “-ist” (a person skilled in)**	—
19	**bicycle: bi- (two); unhappy: un- (not); inactive: in- (not); irresponsible: ir- (not)**	—
20	**-al: relating to, e.g. traditional; -hood: the state or time of being, e.g. childhood; dis-: not, e.g. disagree**	Any correct word using the prefix or suffix.

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