

Meanings of Affixes

Try to guess the meanings of the following affixes.

- able
anti-
auto-
bi-
di-
duo-
tri-
ex-
micro-
mega-
mis-
mono-
uni-
multi-
poly-
over-
post-
pre-
pro-
re-
pseudo-
semi-
demi-
sub-
-er/-or/-ist
-proof
-ess
-ette
-ology
-graph
-phone
tele-
inter-
intra-
neo-

Hint: Affixes near each other often have similar or opposite meanings.

Find examples of any that you couldn't think of in the dictionary and work out the meaning from the examples.

Think of or find at least two (more) examples for each.



Meanings of affixes

Suggested answers

Meanings

- able – can/ be able to

anti- against

auto- itself

bi- two

di- two

duo- two

tri- three

ex- outside or previous

micro- small

mega- large

mis- wrong

mono- one/ single

uni- one/ single

multi- many

poly- many/ many kinds

over- too much

post- after

pre- before

pro- for/ in favour of

re- again

pseudo- kind of

semi- half

demi- half

sub- under

-er/-or/-ist – person/ professional

-proof – not affected by

-ess - female

-ette – small/ female

-ology – science/ study of

-graph – write/ draw

-phone - sound

tele- distant

inter- between

intra- inside

neo- new

Examples

Most of the words are easy to find examples of, with the exception of these three:

di- diameter/ diode/ carbon dioxide/ diphthong

demi- demiquaver/ demi-god/ demitasse/ demimonde/ demijohn

-ette – pipette/ cigarette/ diskette/ drum majorette