

Common Affixes

If students learn to pronounce prefixes and suffixes phonetically in isolation, the students will recognize and pronounce them as “chunks” in multisyllabic words. If a student is familiar with a multisyllabic word, the student will adjust the pronunciation as s/he recognizes and pronounces the word.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE: PREFIXES

Prefix	Example
re-	regresses
un-	uninhabited
dis-	discerned
mis-	misfortune
de-	detour
in-	involving
en-	envelope
pro-	protocol
pre-	prefigures
non-	nonprofit
im-	immerses
em-	emperor
over-	overshadowed
under-	undercurrents
a-	aborted

Prefix	Example
ab-	abduction
ad-	adjunct
per-	perplexes
sub-	subculture
trans-	transversely
be-	bereavement
con-	continent
com-	compost
fore-	foreshadowed
ex-	excavate
anti-	antitoxin
inter-	intercede
mid-	midlevel
semi-	semicircle
super-	superpower

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE: SUFFIXES

Suffix	Example
-s	earphones
-es	radishes
-ing	backpacking
-er	traveler
-ed /t/	handcuffed
-ed /d/	buttoned
-ed	uprooted
-able*	predictable
-ible*	deductible
-less	bottomless
-ness	adeptness
-ful	remorseful
-tion*	adoption
-sion*	immersion
-ly	inactively
-en	handmaiden
-ment	abandonment
-ture*	restructure
-ist	arsonist
-est	wickedest

Suffix	Example
-ty	seventy
-ary	dictionary
-age	anchorage
-ic	inharmonic
-ate	liberate
-ish	replenish
-ize	customize
-ous*	generous
-ism	externalism
-ity	extremity
-ant	repentant
-ent	indifferent
-cial*	provincial
-tial*	inferential
-ance	allowance
-ence	preference
-sive*	excessive
-tive*	perceptive
-al	seasonal

*The phonetic pronunciation of these suffixes is not close to how they are usually pronounced in words. Consequently, it may be more helpful to students to learn to pronounce them as they appear in these examples.