

Common Prefixes, Suffixes, and Roots

The following list should help you to arrive at definitions of unfamiliar words in the critical reading sections of the SAT. These prefixes, suffixes, and roots apply to thousands of words.

Prefixes		
<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Example</i>
ad-	to, toward	advance
anti-	against	antidote
bi-	two	bicycle
com-	together, with	composite
de-	away, from	deter
epi-	upon	epilogue
equi-	equal, equally	equivalent
ex-	out of	expel
homo-	same, equal, like	homogenized
hyper-	over, too much	hyperactive
hypo-	under, too little	hypodermic
in-	not	insufficient
in-	into	instruct
inter-	between	interstate
mal-	bad	malfunction
mis-	wrong	mistake
mono-	alone, one	monolith
non-	not	nonentity
ob-	against	objection
omni-	all, everywhere	omniscient
over-	above	overbearing
poly-	many	polymorphous
pre-	before	precede
pro-	forward	propel
re-	back, again	regress
retro-	backward	retrograde
semi-	half, partly	semicircle
sub-	under	submarine
trans-	across, beyond	transcend
un-	not	unnecessary

Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-able, -ible	able to	usable
-er, -or	one who does	competitor
-ism	the practice of	rationalism
-ist	one who is occupied with	feminist
-less	without, lacking	meaningless
-ship	the art or skill of	statesmanship
-fy	to make	dignify
-ness	the quality of	aggressiveness
-tude	the state of	rectitude
-logue	a particular kind of speaking or writing	prologue

Roots

Root	Meaning	Example
arch	to rule	monarch
belli	war, warlike	belligerent
bene	good	benevolent
chron	time	chronology
dic	to say	indicative
fac	to make, to do	artifact
graph	writing	telegraph
mort	to die	mortal
port	to carry	deport
vid, vis	to see	invisible