

Prefixes by Svetlana Urisman

Age: Adults, young adults
Level: Intermediate
Time: 40-60 mins
Aim: To revise word formation (prefixes); to enrich vocabulary
Key skills: Grammar and speaking
Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student; one copy of the board game and cut-up cards per group of students; one die per group of students; one counter per team (or students can use coins/rubbers instead)

Preparation

Cut up the cards.

Procedure

- Hand out the worksheet. Ask your students to complete Activity 1, working alone.
Key: a. *unputdownable*; b. *precooked*; c. *illegible*; d. *undo*
- Ask students to complete Activity 2.
Key: *unputdownable* – adjective – a book that is unputdownable is so interesting or exciting that you do not want to stop reading it; *precooked* – adjective – precooked food has been cooked or partly cooked so that it can be heated and eaten at a later time; *illegible* – adjective – difficult or impossible to read; *undo* – verb – to open, untie or remove something so that it no longer closes, fastens or connects another thing; to give a computer an instruction to ignore the last change that you made to a document; *irrelevant* – adjective – not important to or not directly connected with what you are discussing or doing
- Ask students to work in pairs to complete Activity 3.
Key: a. *undid*; b. *unputdownable*; c. *irrelevant*; d. *illegible*
- Proceed to Activity 4. Students can still work in pairs.

Key:

prefix	meaning
mis-	wrong

re-	again
dis-	not
im-	not
il-	not
ir-	not
un-	not
under-	not enough
over-	too much
pre-	before
post-	after
non-	not
multi-	many

Additional task: You might want to ask students to think of some words containing the prefixes in Activity 4. You could turn it into a quick competition with students working in two groups, trying to think of more words than the other team.

Key (possible answers): *misbehaviour, misunderstood, reapply, reheated, reappeared, rewritten, rearrangement, re-election, recapture; dislike, dissimilar, disbelief; impossible, impatient, immature; illogical, illegal; irregularity, irreplaceable; unable, unhappy, uncooked, unzip, unhurriedly; under-exposed, under-nourished; overheat, overreaction, overconfident; pre-war, prearranged; post-impressionist, post-dated (cheque); non-alcoholic, non-aggression; multilingual, multimillionaire*

- Now proceed to the board game. You can either ask individual students to play against one another or they can form teams to make it more competitive. All the rules are outlined on the worksheet. Players/Teams can use counters provided by you to play the game or they can use coins or rubbers as counters. The cut-up cards should be placed face down on the table.
- The **secret word** stage is optional. Use it if you have enough time and want to recycle the vocabulary.

Key: (from the top left) *misread; impolite; underestimated; irresistible; mistrust/distrust; indefinite; re-elected; immature; irreplaceable; illegal; unacceptable; uncertain; misjudged; unknown/unfamiliar; disapproving; misunderstanding; improbable; disarm; overslept; mislead; inaudible*

Activity 1

Match the words with the pictures. There is one word you won't need.

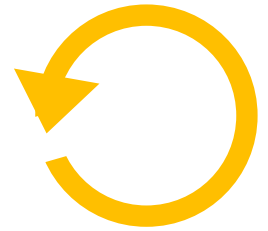
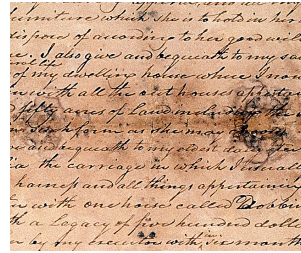
irrelevant

illegible

precooked

unputdownable

undo



Activity 2

What do the words in Activity 1 mean? Which parts of speech are they?

Activity 3

Complete the sentences using four words from task 1.

- He quickly _____ the screws that held the bookcase together.
- 'Was it a good read?' – 'Oh, totally _____. I finished it in two days.'
- Making a large profit is _____ to us. The important thing is to make the book available to the largest possible audience.
- Doctors' writing can often be _____.

Activity 4

Match each prefix with its meaning.

prefix	meaning
mis-	after
re-	before
dis-	too much
im-	not enough
il-	again
ir-	many
un-	wrong
under-	not
over-	not
pre-	not
post-	not
non-	not
multi-	not

Rules of the game

- Place your counter on the start square. Take turns to throw the die and move your counter along the board.
- If you land on a **yellow square**, change the words in bold according to the meaning/clue given in brackets.

Then tell the other players who might say the phrase, in what circumstances, and about who/what.

- If you land on a **blue square**, guess the word.

Then give an example sentence using this word.

- During the game you / your team has **three chances** to use the words on the clue cards. They contain some of the answers to the questions in the game but they also contain some extra words you will **not** need! When you decide to use a card, look through all the cards to try and find the word that you think answers the question.
- **Secret word** – When you've finished the game, each player / team has to take a word from the game and explain it to the other players. The other players have to guess the word.

GOOD LUCK!

START	He had (wrong) _____ read a road sign and taken the wrong turning.	Rude =	Originally the builders gave me a price of £2,000, but now they say they (not enough) _____ estimated and it's going to be at least £3,000.	impossible to refuse / not want / or not like =	She has a deep (wrong, not) _____ trust of journalists.
					not exact; not clear; without clear limits =
	I missed the train this morning because I (too much) _____ slept again.	to make someone believe something that is not true =	He lowered his voice still further, until it was almost (not) _____ audible .	FINISH	I've just heard the class leader is going to be (again) _____ elected
	to take weapons away from someone or to give up weapons or armies =				behaving in not a very adult way =
	It seemed highly (not) _____ probable he would return to work.				An (not) _____ replaceable collection of jewellery was stolen yesterday.
	a failure to understand someone or something correctly =				against the law =
	He gave her a (not) _____ approving look she would remember forever.	not known or familiar =	I thought he wasn't going to support me but I (wrong) _____ judged him.	not feeling sure about what to do; whether something is true =	This sort of behaviour is quite (not) _____ acceptable in a civilized society.



IMMATURE

ILLEGAL

INDEFINITE

MISUNDERSTANDING

**UNKNOWN /
UNFAMILIAR**

TO DISARM

TO MISLEAD

TO DISOBEY

UNCERTAIN

IMPOLITE

DISORDER

IRRESISTIBLE

