

I'm not a robot



[illegible]

outshine2. outback, outboard, outbound, outdate, outfit, outgo, outlast, outlive, outpace, outpour, outsize, outspoke, outstay(Don't confuse this prefix with the word post—referring to the mail system—when it is used in compound words such as postcard or postmark.)2. Later than or afterwarin time adjectives, nouns, verbs, Latin roots1. postcolonial, posterior, postfix, postorbital, postposition, postscript2. postapocalyptic, postcolonial, postdoctoral, postelection, postgame, postgraduate, sub, postindustrial, postmodernism, postproduction, postpone, postpositive, postmortem, postwar(Often hyphenated before other vowels, especially e, though this is less common in American English. Always hyphenated before proper nouns and non-letters)2. Earlier than or beforehand in time.3. Before, in advance, or instead of the normal occurrence.1 & 2. adjectives, nouns, verbs, Latin roots1. preamble, precede, precinct, predate, preeminent, preface, prefer, prefix, prefrontal, prelude, preposition, preside, pretext2. precept, precipitation, precocious, pre-date, predict, pre-emption, prehistory, preindustrial, prejudice, premature, premonition, prenatal, preparation, preproduction, prescience, preserve, preschool, preshow, presume, preview3. preadmit, preapprove, preassign, prebook, preclean, precondition, predestine, predetermine, preoccupy, preorder, prepay, pre-position1. Supporting; promoting; in favor of.2. Forward; forth; toward the point.3. In place or on behalf of; acting or substituting for.4. Beforehand; in advance; prior to.1. nouns (usually hyphenated, but not always)2, 3, 4 & 5. Greek and Latin roots (less commonly, adjective, nouns, and verbs)1. pro-American, pro-Britain, pro-Catholic, pro-choice, pro-life, pro-peace, pro-revolution, prow2. problem, proceed, proclaim, procreate, procrastination, profess, profound, program, progress, project, prolong, promote, propel, prosecute, protest, proverb3. proconsul, procure, pronoun, proper, prorate, proportion4. proactive, prognosis, prohibit, prophet, proscribe5. proboscis, profane, pronominal, prologue, protect(This prefix becomes red- before Latin roots beginning with vowels. It is hyphenated when paired with English roots if the resultant spelling would be the same as an existing word; it may also be hyphenated before English roots beginning vowels, especially e-, but this is often up to the discretion of the writer and is not usually done in American English.)1. Once more; again (in the same manner, direction, etc.)2. Once more; again (with the aim of improving, fixing, or substituting).3. Anew; restored to the original place, condition, etc.4. Against; back or in reverse; opposite; in response to.5. Used as an intensive with Latin root verbs.1. reaffirm, reappear, reboot, recognize, recopy, re-cover, recur, re-dress, redecorate, redeploy, redesign, rediscover, reelect, reenact, reenter, rehearse, rehire, relearn, rehydrate, relive, reload, reregister, re-sign, restart, retry, reunite2. reapply, reapportion, rebrand, recalculate, rekindle, relabel, relocate, remarry, reschedule, reseat, rethink, retry3. reacquire, readjust, realign, rebuild, recapture, receive, regain, rehabilitate, renew, replace, restore4. react, rebel, rebuff, recant, recede, reciprocate, recite, recoil, redact, redeem, redress, refer, regress, reject, relate, remove, resign, respond, return5. redolent, refine, regard, regret, relieve, remedy, repent(Note that this prefix is almost always hyphenated.)1. Of, with, in, regarding, or performed by the same person or thing.2. Automatic; automatically.2. adjectives (usually past or present participles)1. self-analysis, self-confidence, self-control, self-deprecating, self-destruct, self-esteem, self-evident, self-fulfilling, self-image, self-importance, self-indulgent, self-interest, self-preservation, self-promotion, self-respect, self-righteous, selfsame, self-sufficient, self-worth2. self-adhesive, self-driving, self-loading, self-propelled, self-pollinating, self-replicating, self-regulating, self-starting2. Incompletely; partially; partly; somewhat, almost, or resembling.3. Occurring twice within a certain period of time.1. semicircle, semicolon, semicylinder, semidiameter, semidome, semifinal, semioval, semiovoid2. semiarticulate, semiautomatic, semiconductor, semiconscious, semidarkness, semidetached, semidry, semiformal, semiliterate, semiofficial, semipermanent, semiprofessional, semiserious, semiretired, semitransparent, semivowel 3. semiannual, semimonthly, semiweeklyWhen used with Latin roots, sub- sometimes takes different forms depending on the consonant it precedes:su- before roots beginning with s-suc- before roots beginning with c-sug- before roots beginning with g-sup- before roots beginning with p-sur- before roots beginning with r-occasionally sus- before some roots beginning with c-, p-, or t-1. Under; below; beneath; outside or outlying.2. At a secondary or lower position in a hierarchy. 3. Incompletely or imperfectly; partially; less than, almost, or nearly.4. Forming a smaller part of a larger whole.5. Up to; up from under or beneath.1, 2, 3, & 4. adjectives, nouns, verbs, and Latin roots1. subaqueous, subcutaneous, subdermal, subject, submarine, submerge, submit, subscribe, subsoil, substrate, substitution, subterranean, subtle, subtitle, suburb, subway, subzero, suppose, surrogate, suspect2. subagent, subaltern, subchief, subclerk, subcommittee, subcontractor, subeditor, sublet, subofficer, subordinate, subtreasury, subwriter3. subarctic, subaquatic, subhuman, subnormal, subtropics4. subarea, subcategory, subchapter, subcontinent, subcounty, subdepartment, subdivide, subfossil, subgenus, subplot, subregion, subsection, subspecies, subtype, subunit5. sublime, subside, substance, subtraction, succeed, suggest, support, surreptitious, susceptible, suspect, suspend, sustain(usually becomes tran- before roots beginning with s-)1. Across; beyond; through; on the other side.2. Completely change or alter.1. adjectives, verbs, Latin roots2. nouns, verbs, Latin roots1. transaction, transatlantic, transcend, transfer, transfix, transfuse, transgenerational, transgress, transient, translucent, transmit, transnational, transpacific, transparent, transplant, transport2. transcribe, transduce, transfigure, transform, transgender, translate, transliterate, transmute, transubstantiate1. Located beyond or on the far side of a certain point; exceeding the normal range or limit of a certain threshold. 2. Extremely; more than customary.3. Radically; excessively; on the fringe of what is considered normal or acceptable.1. ultrafilter, ultramicroscope, ultrasonic, ultrasound, ultrastructure, ultraviolet2. ultradense, ultradry, ultraefficient, ultrafine, ultrahigh, ultrahot, ultramodern, ultrapowerful, ultravacuum3. ultraconservative, ultraliberal, ultranationalism, ultraorthodox, ultraviolenceHyphenated before proper nouns and adjectives.Note that some adjectives that are preceded by un- will have noun-form equivalents that take the prefix in- instead, as in unequal/inequality or unstable/instability. 2. Used to form certain negative adjectival phrases. 3. Opposite of or contrary to; lacking or absent.1. adjectives (not counting nouns formed from prefixed adjectives)2. past-participle adjectives + prepositions1. unable, unaccompanied, un-American, unbelievable, unbiased, un-British, uncertain, unclear, undue, unemployed, unending, unfamiliar, unforeseen, ungraceful, unguided, unhappy, unhealthy, uninformed, unjust, unkind, unknowing, unlawful, unlikely, unlucky, unmanned, unpersuaded, unprofessional, unrated, unreasonable, unscathed, unsolved, untried, untrustworthy, unwise, unwritten2. unasked-for, uncalled-for, undreamed-of, un-get-at-able, unheard-of3. unbelief, unconcern, uninterest, unmilitary, unrest, untruthThe first usage of un- forms adjectives or, less commonly, nouns, while this second usage forms verbs.1. To reverse, erase, or undo an action or effect.2. To deprive of, extract, or remove.3. To free, remove, or release from.4. Used as an intensifier with existing verbs that have the same meaning.1. unbend, unbind, unbolt, unclog, uncoil, uncork, undo, undress, unfasten, unfold, unfurl, unhook, unload, unlock, unplug, unscrew, unscramble, unseal, unsheathe, unravel, unroll, untangle, unwind2. unbalance, uncloak, unfrock, unhorse, unman, unmask, unseat, unveil3. unburden, unbox, uncage, uncrate, unearth, unharness, unhitch, unleash, unwrap unyoke1. Located beneath or below; lower in position.2. Inferior; lesser or lower in rank.3. Less (in degree, amount, rate, etc.), usually than is considered appropriate, acceptable, or normal.3. adjectives, nouns, verbs1. underarm, underbelly, underclothes, undercover, underfoot, undergarment, underground, underlay, underlie, undermine, underpass, underpin, underscore, undersea, undertone, undertow, underwater2. underboss, underclassmen, undergraduate, undersecretary, undersheriff, understudy3. underage, underappreciate, underdeveloped, underemployed, underestimate, underfeed, underfund, undernourished, underpay, underrate, underreport, understaff, underweight1. Up; upper; upwards; higher.2. Greater; better; denoting increase.1. update, upheave, uphold, upend, upland, upload, upon, upright, uproar, uproot, upsell, upset, upstairs, uptake, upwind2. upgrade, uplift, uprate, upscale, upstart, uptick, upturnAs you can see from the examples we've looked at, the vast majority of prefixes don't require a hyphen when they are attached to a root. However, it is sometimes the case that adding a prefix to a stem can result in a word that is difficult or confusing to read, or else results in a spelling that overlaps with an existing word. In these cases, we can use a hyphen between the prefix and the stem word to clarify the meaning of the new word. Many writers choose to add a hyphen when the last letter of the prefix and the first letter of the root are both vowels (especially when they are the same letter) so as to avoid creating a word that is difficult or confusing to read. For example:co- + operate = co-operate (work/operate together)de- + emphasize = de-emphasize (lessen or reverse the emphasis on something)re- + elect = re-elect (elect again)Note that this hyphen is almost always optional and up to the writer's discretion, and many double-vowel prefixed words are now commonly spelled without the hyphen (especially in American English). If in doubt, you can probably omit the hyphen, but use a good dictionary or check your school's or business's style guide to be sure.Another instance when we might use a hyphen is when the resulting spelling would be confusing or awkward to read. For example:co- + worker = co-worker (compare with coworker, which could be confusing because it spells cow at the beginning)de- + ice = de-ice (compare with deice, which seems like it could be pronounced /deis/)Again, using the prefix without a hyphen is often a correct way to spell the word as well, so the hyphen is purely up to the writer's discretion. When adding a prefix (especially de- and re-) creates a word that looks the same as (or similar to) an existing word with a different meaning, we should use a hyphen to avoid confusion. For example:co- + op = co-op (shortening of cooperative; compare with coop, which means "a small cage or enclosure")de- + stress = de-stress (meaning "to reduce stress"; without the hyphen, destress looks very similar to distress, which means "to cause strain, anxiety, or suffering")re- + cover = re-cover (meaning "to cover again"; compare with recover, meaning "to get back" or "to be restored to normal")re- + dress = re-dress (meaning "to dress again"; compare with redress, meaning "to rectify" or "to make amends to")When a prefix is paired with a proper noun or a proper adjective, we use a hyphen so we don't have a capital letter appearing in the middle of a word. While hyphens have been almost always optional in our previous examples, we always use a hyphen with proper words. For example:pro + Canada = pro-Canada (in favor of Canada; not proCanada)pre + Industrial Revolution = pre-Industrial Revolution (before the beginning of the Industrial Revolution; not preindustrial Revolution)un + American = un-American (not in alignment with the ideals or principles of America)Note that some style guides suggest using an en dash (–) instead of a hyphen when a prefix is used with a proper noun or adjective that is already a compound, as in the second example. Using this method, it would look like this:pre-Industrial RevolutionHowever, this is entirely a personal preference, unless the style guide used by your school or employer specifically prescribes its use.In addition to proper nouns and adjectives, we almost always use a hyphen with the prefixes self- and ex- (when it means "former"), as in:self- + conscious = self-conscious (not selfconscious)ex- + boyfriend = ex-boyfriend (not exboyfriend) Get all volumes of The Farlex Grammar Book in paperback or eBook. 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