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## LESSON 2

# Prefixes and Suffixes

In Lesson 1, you learned how to use context to work out the meaning of unfamiliar words. Another good way is to look for a prefix or suffix that can help you decode the word's meaning. Prefixes and suffixes are attached to the central "core" or root of many words of more than one syllable.

### Prefixes

*Prefixes* are word parts that are found at the *beginning* of words. The prefix *pre-* means "before" or "beginning."

Here are some common prefixes to watch for as you read.

Common Prefixes			
ab-	from, off	intra-	within
ad-	to, toward	magn-	large
anti-	against	micro-	small
auto-	self	non-	not
bi-	two	pre-	before
con-	with	pro-	for, in favor of
contra-		re-	again
counter-	against, opposite	sub-	under, below
dis-	not	super-	above
ex-	out from OR no longer	sym-	together
extra-	beyond	tri-	three
im-	not	un-	not
in-	into OR not	uni-	one
inter-	between, among		

### Examples

- *The United States is bisected by the Mississippi River.*  
You know that the prefix *bi-* means "two," so you can make an educated guess that this word means "divided into two sections."
- *One of the goals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was interracial harmony.*  
You know that the prefix *inter-* means "between" or "among," so you can make an educated guess that this word means "between races."

