

FIGURE 83. COMMON PREFIXES.

PREFIX	% of All Prefixed Words	MEANING	EXAMPLES
Un-	26	Not, opposite of	Unaware, unbelievable, unsure
Re-	14	Again	Redo, replay
Im-, in-, il-, ir-	11	Not	Impossible, incapable, illogical, irregular
Dis-	7	Not, opposite of	Dishonest, disgraceful, discover
En-, em-	4	Cause to	Enable, emblaze
Non-	4	Not	Nonstick, nonfiction, nonexistent
In-, im-	3	In, into	Inject
Over-	3	Too much	Overtime, overeat
Mis-	3	Wrongly	Misunderstand, misuse
Sub-	3	Under	Subsurface, subway
Pre-	3	Before	Prepay, preschool
Inter-	3	Between	International, interact
Fore-	3	Before	Forethought
De-	2	Opposite of	Decaffeinated, dehydrate
Trans-	2	Across	Transatlantic
Super-	1	Above	Superhero, supermodel
Semi-	1	Half	Semiannual, semicolon
Anti-	1	Against	Antiwar, antisocial
Mid-	1	Middle	Midyear, midnight
Under-	1	Too little	Underweight, underpaid
All others	3		

*Top 20 prefixes from Carroll, J. B., Davies, P., & Richman, B. (1971). The American heritage world frequency book. Boston: Houghton Mifflin; as cited in White, Sowell, & Yanagihara, 1989.*