



**INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH [2025– 2026]**

TOPIC: PREFIX AND SUFFIX

HANDOUT

RESOURCE PERSON: Ms. Annie Mathew

NAME: _____ CLASS: V SEC: _____ DATE: _____

A **root word** or a **base word** is the part of a word that can stand alone as a complete or independent word. We can make new words from it by adding beginnings (prefixes) and endings (suffixes).

Prefix:

A **prefix** is a letter or a group of letters that is added at the beginning of the root word to form a new word.

- A Prefix cannot stand alone as a word, but it changes or modifies the meaning of the root word.
- Prefixes can make a word negative, indicates opinion or show repetition.

Examples:

- un (prefix) + happy (root word) = unhappy (new word)
- re (prefix) + write (root word) = rewrite (new word)

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
mis -	wrong	mistake, misbehave
dis -	not, opposite of	disappear, disqualify
il -	not	illogical, illegal
im -	not, without	impossible, improper
in -	not, without	inactive, invisible
un -	against, not, opposite	undo, unequal

re -	again	redo, react, renew
ir -	not	irregular, irresponsible

Suffix:

A **suffix** is a group of letters added to the end of the root word to make a new word.

- Suffix does change the meaning of the word it is added to and does not make the word opposite or negative like prefixes do. Suffixes simply changes the class of the root word like a verb is changed into an adjective or a noun.
- Sometimes, adding a suffix changes the spelling of the root word.

Examples:

- wonder (root word) + ful (suffix) = wonderful (new word)
- happy (root word) + ness (suffix) = happiness (new word)

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
- ful	having the quality of	useful, thankful, helpful
- ness	showing a state or quality	kindness, darkness
- less	without, not effected by	careless, meaningless
- able	usually able to be, capable of	comfortable, movable, fashionable
- er / or	person that does a specified action	worker, actor, teacher
- ment	the act, state or result of an action	enjoyment, improvement
- ous	full of	joyous, famous
- ion	the action or process of	revision, collection
- ible	able to be	accessible, digestible