


# Year 1 Prefixes and Suffixes: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to prefixes and suffixes can help you support your child's learning at home. The subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring prefixes and suffixes together, either as part of homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. Whether your child is only just beginning to explore what prefixes and suffixes are, or they are comfortable with their uses and want to find out more, you will find a step that matches where your child is at, then have ideas for where to go next.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

# Prefixes and Suffixes

## What Are Prefixes and Suffixes?

As your child's confidence in writing and spelling increases, they will begin to learn about prefixes and suffixes. A **prefix** is a letter or group of letters that is added to the beginning of a word which alters its meaning, for example:

rewritten    incorrect    unhappy

A **suffix** is a letter or group of letters that is added to the end of a word which alters its meaning and sometimes the spelling of the root word. Examples of suffixes include:

spiteful    illness    slowly

In year 1, your child will be introduced to the prefix un- and taught how it changes the meaning of a verb or adjective, for example unkind or undoing. They will also be introduced to the plural noun suffixes -s and -es to show where there are more than one of something, for example dog/dogs, wish/wishes. In addition, they will be introduced to suffixes that can be added to verbs where no change is needed to the spelling of the root word, for example: helping, helper, helped.

As well as using the resources in this category and the suggested keyword searches to help your child with prefixes and suffixes, a few ideas for games and activities to help your child learn how to use them, both in their spoken language and in their writing, are outlined below.

### Read, Read, Read!

Sharing books together is the most powerful way for children to learn about language, spelling, grammar and punctuation. When you are reading with your child, can you spot words with prefixes and suffixes and discuss their meanings?

### Prefix Matching Game

Use these **Prefix Matching Cards** with your child. Cut out the prefixes and root words then shuffle them. Can your child match the cards together to form words again?

### Noun Sorting

Write a list of nouns on a piece of paper, for example fox, coat, song, night, witch, box, kiss, week, hat, dog, itch, smile, fizz. Now ask your child to sort them into two groups; those whose plurals are spelt with -s and those whose plurals are spelt -es. Can they write two sentences containing plural nouns, one spelt with an -s and one with an -es?

### Adding the Suffixes -ing and -ed

Write down a list of verbs such as cook, walk, play, kick, look. Ask your child to add the suffixes -ing and -ed to each one and discuss how they change the meaning (-ing shows the action is continuous, -ed changes the verb to the past tense).

## Step 1

### What Are Prefixes and Suffixes?

In year 1, your child will begin to explore regular plural noun suffixes (-s and -es) and will begin to discover how prefixes and suffixes can be added to the beginning and end of a word to alter its meaning, such as untie and walked. This interactive activity can help your child recognise prefixes and suffixes and explore how they can change the meaning of root words.



### Spelling Prefixes and Suffixes

The national curriculum requires that children in year 1 be able to spell plural nouns by adding -s or -es where appropriate. They should be able to spell verbs (action words) with the suffixes -ing, -ed and -er as well as adding -er and -est to adjectives. They are also introduced to the prefix un- and are asked to spell words such as unload and unfair. You could use this activity booklet to help your child practise spelling words with prefixes and suffixes at home.

## Step 2



## Step 3

### Using Prefixes and Suffixes in Sentences

During lessons, children will spend time exploring root words and how adding prefixes and suffixes can change the meaning of these words. They will then practise writing these words in a sentence in order to place them in context and develop their understanding further. You could play this Great Fire of London themed suffix game with your child before encouraging them to use the words to write their own sentences.

### Experimenting Further with Prefixes and Suffixes

Your child will start to collect together a wider variety of words using prefixes and suffixes. They can explore prefixes and suffixes further with this activity pack.

## Step 4



# Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



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Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!