

Common Content Area Roots and Affixes

Common Root, Prefix or Suffix	Meaning	Science	Social Studies	Mathematics
-able	capable or worthy of	invisible, predictable	adaptable, acceptable, remarkable	divisible
-ation	forms nouns from verbs	creation, information, determination	civilization, automation, speculation	interpretation, evaluation
de	down, from	detach, deodorize, decompose	deploy, destruction, depression	descend, decrease
demo	people	epidemic	democracy, demographic	
dia	through, between, across		diagram, dialect, dialogue	diameter, diagonal, diagram
dict	to say	predict, contradict	dictate, edict	
di-, dys-, dif-	not, negative	disperse, disconnect	differ, dysfunction	difference
equi	equal	equilibrium, equator	equinox, equitable	equation, equidistant, equilateral, equal
ex-	former, completely	external	exit, exalt, exclude	expanded
exter, extra	outside of	external, extract, extrasensory	extradite, extrinsic, extreme	exterior
frag, fract	break	fracture, fragment	fraction	fraction
flux, flu	flow	fluctuate	influence, influx	reflux, confluence
graph, gram	to write	polygraph, graphite, electrocardiogram	biography, telegram, historiography	graph, graphic
gress	to walk	progress	transgress, digress	
hyper	over, above	hypersensitive, hyperventilate, hyperkinetic, hypersonic	hyperlink, hypertext	hyperbole
inter-	between	intermittent	international	intercept
log, logo, loc	word, speak	logic	monologue, dialogue, eulogy	logarithm
mal	bad, badly	malaria, malfunction, malformation	malice, malady, malcontent	
-ity, -ty	state of, quality of	electricity, peculiarity, certainty	subtlety, cruelty, frailty, loyalty, royalty	similarity, technicality
meta	beyond, change	metamorphosis, metabolism	metacognitive, metahistorical	
meter	measure	micrometer, altimeter, thermometer, multimeter		perimeter, metrics, geometry, kilometer
multi	many	multimedia	multitude, multipartite, multinational	multiplication
non-	not	nonabrasive, nonfat, nonferrous, nonskid, nonmetallic	nonfiction, nonprofit, nonresident, nonviolence	noncollinear, noncoplanar, nonessential
pan	all, whole	pandemic, panacea, panorama	pandemonium, panoply, pan-American	
para	beside	paramedic, parachute	paraphrase, compare	parabola, parallel
pend	to hang	pendulum	append, depend, impend	
peri	around	periscope, periodontal		perimeter
poly	many	polymorphous	polytheist, polygamy	polygon, polynomial
re-	again, back	remake, return	rerun, rewrite	rearrange, rebuild, recall
scrib, script	to write	describe, prescribe	subscribe	describe
sect, sec	cut	dissect	section	intersect
sub-	under	subsoil, substandard, subhuman	submarine, subway, subtitles	subset
struct	build	structure	instruct	construct
-tract	to pull, drag, draw	attract, extract	contract, retract	protract, subtract
-vert	to turn	convert, invert	divert, revert, extravert	vertical, invert

Reprinted from *Sustaining Strategic Readers: Techniques for Supporting Content Literacy in Grades 6–12* by Valerie Ellery and Jennifer L. Rosenboom. © 2011 International Reading Association.