

Prefixes

A prefix is a syllable, or group of syllables, added to the beginning of a word. A prefix changes the meaning of a word and/or forms a new word. For example, the prefix of "unknown" is "un-" (which means the opposite of or lack of) and the root word is "know." The meaning of "unknown" is, therefore, "not known."

Educators agree that one of the keys to a sound vocabulary is a complete understanding of prefixes. It may be useful to create flash cards that include various prefixes for this grade level. The following is an example of a prefix flash card:

Front: anti-
Back: against

Vocabulary words can be found in the student's textbooks and other reading materials.

It may also be beneficial to help the student learn to dissect a word. For example, help the student break apart the word "dislike." Remind him or her that "dis-" means "not." Therefore, the meaning of "dislike" is "not to like."