



DECODING VOCAB

The list of common root words and affixes below will help your child to decode a plethora of new words in future.

Use the list to prompt discussions with your child, figuring out how each word relates to its root. You can also have fun adding new words to the list. Each time you move on to a new root/affix, don't forget to review a few of the ones you've already covered.

ROOT/ AFFIX	MEANING	EXAMPLE WORDS
a-	not/without	asymmetrical, anonymous, apathetic, amnesia, atheist, apathy
a- or ad-	to or toward	affix, adhere, adapt, adjust, advertise
ante	before	antique, antecedent, anticipate
anti	against	antagonist, anticlockwise, antidote
aqua	water	aquatic, aquamarine, aquarium
arch	chief	archrival, arch nemesis, archangel
aud-	hearing or sound	audible, audience, audition
auto-	self	automatic, autobiography, autograph
bi	two or twice	bimonthly, biannual, biennial, bicycle, bipod
cap	head	captain, decapitate, precipitous
co-, con-, com-	together or with	cooperate, coincide converse, converse, construct, conduct combine, community



de-	down, away from or opposite	decay, defend, descend, destroy, decline, deduce
dis-	opposite, away from	disinterest, disadvantage, disbelieve
du	twice	duplicate, duel, dual, duplicitous
en-, em-	in	embrace, emphasis, enthusiasm, embrace
ex- or e-	out	exhale, exterior, extend, evolve, extinguish, emit, elude
il-	not or without (generally used to form the antonym of words beginning with	illogical, illiterate, illegal
im- or in-	not or without	invisible, incorrect, indecisive impure, immoral, imperfect
inter-	between	interrupt, international, interval, interact, interpret
ir-	not or without (generally used to form the antonym of words beginning with	irreplaceable, irreversible, irrelevant
micro	small	microscope, micro organism
mis-	wrong	misanthrope, mistake, misinterpret, misfortune
mono-	one	monocle, monologue, monotone, monochrome
multi-	many or several	multitude, multicoloured, multiple
non-	not	nonsense, non-fiction
ob-	against, in the way of	obstruct, obstinate
pre-	before	predict, premature, precede, predecessor, precaution
pro-	forward or in front of	protrude, prolong, protract, propel



re-	back, again	reverse, repeat, retract, rescind, retrieve
rupt	to break	erupt, disrupt, rupture, abrupt
sol-	alone	solitude, desolate, isolate, solo
-spec-	to look	spectacle, aspect, conspicuous, speculate
sub-	below	submerge, submarine, subtract
super-	above	superior, supervise, supernatural
tain or ten	to hold	maintain, content, retain, obtain
tang or tact	touch	tangible, tactile, intact
tele-	far	telephone, telephony, television, teleport
temp-	time	temporary, contemporary, temperamental
trans-	across	transatlantic, transfer, translate, transient
tri-	three	tricycle, triplets
un-	not or the opposite of something	unbelievable, unreal, undo, unselfish
uni-	one	universe, uniform, unitard, unicycle
vac	empty	evacuate, vacant, vacuum
-vert-	turn	reverse, revert, divert, advert
vis-	to see	visible, improvise, supervise
viv- or vit-	to live	revive, vital, vivacious, viable

Explore root words further with our “5 Words in 5 Minutes” video series - watch at link.wordier.online/rootwordplaylist.