

## KS3 English Quiz - Prefixes 01 (Questions)

In English, a prefix is a few letters placed at the beginning of a word to modify its meaning. For instance dis- is a prefix and placing it in front of "appear" makes "disappear".

You wouldn't think a few letters could be so powerful, but prefixes are. Often they turn words into their opposites, as in the case of "appear" and "disappear". It might not always be obvious how the prefix relates to the root word, however. Dis- means a negation. But what does it negate in the case of "disturb"? In this case, the prefix *intensifies* the root (which is related to turmoil or turbulence). Sometimes the root word changes its meaning so it is no longer as clear how the prefix is operating, as in the case of "disabuse", which means "to undeceive". And what about 'dismay'? Can it be the opposite of "may"? Amazingly, it is! But this is only true for the older sense of "may" as having the power to do something, which is much stronger than our current sense of it as a word connected to possibility or having permission.

Try this quiz on the subject to help you get the hang of prefixes.

1. What does the prefix tele- (as in "television") mean?

- Far
- Hear
- Near
- See

2. What does the prefix ex- (as in "exit") mean?

- Down
- In
- Out
- Up

3. What does the prefix re- (as in "return") mean?

- Again/back
- Against/opposite
- Before/earlier
- Before/in front of

4. What does the prefix poly- (as in "polygon") mean?

- Few
- Many
- One
- Some

5. What does the prefix milli- (as in "millipede") mean?

- A hundredth
- A thousandth
- A millionth
- Ten millionth

6. What does the prefix pre- (as in "prefix") mean?

- After
- Before
- Beside
- Next to

7. What does the prefix peri- (as in "perimeter") mean?

- Around
- Beside
- In front of
- Inside

8. What does the prefix dec- (as in "decade") mean?

- Ten
- A hundred
- A thousand
- A million

9. What does the prefix oct-' (as in "octopus") mean?

- Six
- Seven
- Eight
- Ten

10. What does the prefix cent- (as in "centurion") mean?

- Ten
- A hundred
- A thousand
- A million

## KS3 English Quiz - Prefixes 01 (Answers)

1. What does the prefix tele- (as in "television") mean?

- Far
- Hear
- Near
- See

The prefix tele- can also be seen in "telephone" and "telegraph"

2. What does the prefix ex- (as in "exit") mean?

- Down
- In
- Out
- Up

Ex- is the prefix in "extract", too

3. What does the prefix re- (as in "return") mean?

- Again/back
- Against/opposite
- Before/earlier
- Before/in front of

The prefix re- is also found in the word "repeat"

4. What does the prefix poly- (as in "polygon") mean?

- Few
- Many
- One
- Some

A polygon is a many-sided shape

5. What does the prefix milli- (as in "millipede") mean?

- A hundredth
- A thousandth
- A millionth
- Ten millionth

A thousand millimetres make a metre

6. What does the prefix pre- (as in "prefix") mean?

- After
- Before
- Beside
- Next to

Pre- is the prefix in "preview"

7. What does the prefix peri- (as in "perimeter") mean?

- Around
- Beside
- In front of
- Inside

The word "peripatetic" also begins with the prefix peri-

8. What does the prefix dec- (as in "decade") mean?

- Ten
- A hundred
- A thousand
- A million

There are ten years in a decade and a decagon has ten sides

9. What does the prefix oct-' (as in "octopus") mean?

- Six
- Seven
- Eight
- Ten

An octopus has eight tentacles

10. What does the prefix cent- (as in "centurion") mean?

- Ten
- A hundred
- A thousand
- A million

A Roman centurion was in charge of a hundred men