Common Prefixes, Suffixes, and Roots

The following list should help you to arrive at definitions of unfamiliar words in the critical reading sections of the SAT. These prefixes, suffixes, and roots apply to thousands of words.

Prefix Meaning Example ad- to, toward advance anti- against antidote bi- two bicycle com- together, with composite de- away, from deter epi- upon epilogue equi- equal, equally equivalent ex- out of expel homo- same, equal, like homogenized hyper- over, too much hyperactive hypo- under, too little hypodermic in- not insufficient in- into instruct inter- between interstate mal- bad malfunction mis- wrong mistake mono- alone, one monolith non- not nonentity ob- against objection omi- all, everywhere omniscient over- above overbearing pre- before precede pro- forward regress retro- back, again regress retro- submarine trans- across, beyond transcend un- not unneeded	Prefixes		
anti- bi- two bicycle com- together, with composite de- away, from deter epi- upon epilogue equi- equi- equi- equal, equally equivalent ex- out of expel homo- hyper- over, too much hyperactive hypo- under, too little in- in- into into instruct inter- between interstate mal- bad malfunction mis- wrong mistake mono- alone, one monolith non- not not nonentity ob- against objection omni- over- above overbearing poly- many polymorphous pre- before precede pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- sulvaler. sub- under between lintersee bicycle equivalent ex- equivalent	Prefix	Meaning	Example
bi- two bicycle com- together, with composite de- away, from deter epi- upon epilogue equi- equal, equally equivalent ex- out of expel homo- same, equal, like homogenized hyper- over, too much hyperactive hypo- under, too little hypodermic in- not insufficient in- into instruct inter- between interstate mal- bad malfunction mis- wrong mistake mono- alone, one monolith non- not nonentity ob- against objection omni- all, everywhere omniscient over- above overbearing poly- many polymorphous pre- before precede pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- backward retrograde submarine trans- across, beyond transcend	ad-	to, toward	advance
com- together, with composite de- away, from deter epi- upon epilogue equi- equi- equal, equally equivalent ex- out of expel homo- hyper- hyper- hypo- under, too little hypodermic in- in- in- into instruct in- inter- between intersate mal- bad malfunction mis- wrong mistake mono- non- not not nonentity ob- against objection omni- all, everywhere omniscient over- above overbearing poly- pre- before precede pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- ball, partly semicircle submarine trans- across, beyond transcend	anti-	against	antidote
de- epi- upon epilogue equi- equi- equi- equi- equal, equally equivalent ex- out of same, equal, like homogenized hyper- hyper- under, too little in- into intro inter- mal- bad malfunction mis- wrong mistake mono- alone, one not not not not not not not none- not pbe- against objection omni- all, everywhere over- backward retroo- backward sub- sum- sundary sup- sundary poly- pre- back, again respicate sup- sundary equivalent e	bi-	two	bicycle
epi- equi- equi- equi, equal, equally equivalent ex- out of expel homo- homo- homo- hyper- over, too much hypo- under, too little in- in- into inter- between ins- mal- bad malfunction mis- wrong mistake mono- alone, one not none indi, everywhere ower- above poly- poly- pre- before pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- backward retrograde serwi- same, equal, like equivalent equival	com-	together, with	composite
equi- equi- equi, equally ex- out of expel homo- homo- same, equal, like homogenized hyper- over, too much hyperactive hypo- under, too little hypodermic in- in- int into instruct inter- between interstate mal- bad malfunction mis- wrong mistake mono- alone, one monolith non- non- ob- against objection omni- all, everywhere omniscient over- poly- many polymorphous pre- before precede pro- forward propel re- backward retrograde semi- half, partly semicircle sub- under submarine trans-	de-	away, from	deter
ex- homo- homo- same, equal, like homogenized hyper- over, too much hyperactive hypo- under, too little in- in- into into inter- between inis- wrong mis- mono- alone, one non- not against objection omni- ower- above over- above prop- forward prop- re- back, again regress retro- semi- sub- under over, too much hyperactive homogenized hoppedamic hypodermic insufficient insufficient instruct interstate mal- bad malfunction mistake monolith nonentity objection omniscient owniscient owniscient ower- above overbearing poly- proply- many polymorphous pre- before precede pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- backward retrograde semi- half, partly semicircle sub- under submarine	epi-	upon	epilogue
homo- hyper- lyper- lypo- lypo	equi-	equal, equally	equivalent
hyper- hypo- under, too little hypodermic in- in- into into inter- between bad malfunction mis- wrong mistake mono- non- not non- ob- against own- own- all, everywhere ower- above poly- pre- before pro- forward retro- pack, again regress retro- semi- shalf, partly sub- under intsufficient insufficient insufficient insufficient insufficient insufficient insufficient insufficient insufficient instruct onalifunction malfunction monolith nonentity objection omniscient ower-bearing over-bearing poly-over-bearing poly-over-bearing poly-over-before precede pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- backward retrograde semi- half, partly semicircle submarine trans-	ex-	out of	expel
hypo- in- inot insufficient in- into into instruct inter- inter- between interstate mal- bad malfunction mis- wrong mistake mono- non- not non- not ob- against objection omni- ower- above poly- poly- pre- before pro- forward retro- backward retro- semi- sulb- under into insufficient insufficient insufficient insufficient instruct interstate malfunction malfunction malfunction malfunction malfunction malfunction omistake monolith nonentity objection omiscient ower- above overbearing polymorphous pre- pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- backward retrograde semi- sub- under submarine trans-	homo-	same, equal, like	homogenized
in- in- into into instruct inter- between interstate mal- bad malfunction mis- wrong mistake mono- non- not non- not ob- against objection omni- ower- above poly- poly- pre- before pro- forward retro- backward retrograde semi- sub- under interstate interstate mal- interstate mal- monalitruction mistake mono- monolith nonentity objection omiscient ower- owerbearing polymorphous pre- pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- backward retrograde semi- sub- under submarine trans-	hyper-	over, too much	hyperactive
in- inter- inter- between interstate mal- bad malfunction mis- wrong mistake mono- alone, one non- not ob- against objection omni- over- above over- poly- pre- before pre- before pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- backward sub- sub- sub- trans- across, beyond imitoto instruct interstate operation interstate interstate interstate operation interstate interstate operation interstate interstate interstate operation interstate interstate operation inters	hypo-	under, too little	hypodermic
inter- mal- mal- mal- bad malfunction mis- wrong mistake mono- alone, one non- not non- not ob- against objection omni- all, everywhere over- above overbearing poly- many polymorphous pre- before pre- before pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- backward half, partly semi- sub- trans- across, beyond mistake manlfunction maifunction malfunction maifunction monolith nonentity objection owniscient ower- owerbearing proplymorphous precede precede precede precede pro- forward propel retro- backward retrograde semi- submarine trans-	in-	not	insufficient
mal- mis- wrong mistake mono- alone, one non- non- not non- ob- against objection omni- all, everywhere ower- above poly- many polymorphous pre- before pre- before pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- backward retrograde semi- sub- under sub- many mistake monoticle monolith nonentity objection omniscient ower- owerbearing polymorphous pre- pre- pre- pre- pre- before pre- pre- backward retrograde submarine trans-	in-	into	instruct
mis- mis- mono- alone, one monolith non- not not nonentity ob- against objection omni- ower- above overbearing poly- many polymorphous pre- before pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- backward retrograde semi- sub- under submarine trans- mistake monolith nonentity objection owniscient ower- owerbearing polymorphous propel precede procede procede propel re- backward retrograde semi- sub- trans-	inter-	between	interstate
mono- not nonentity ob- ob- against objection omni- ower- above overbearing poly- pre- before precede pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- semi- semi- sub- under submarine trans- monolith nonentity objection omiscient owniscient owniscie	mal-	bad	malfunction
non- ob- ob- against objection omni- omni- over- above poly- poly- pre- before pro- forward re- back, again retro- backward semi- sub- under nonentity nonentity nohecological polyection owniscient overbearing polymorphous prolymorphous pre- pre- pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- semi- sub- under submarine trans- trans-	mis-	wrong	mistake
ob- omni- omni- over- above poly- pre- before pro- forward re- back, again retro- backward semi- semi- sub- under against objection objection objection omniscient over- polymorphous polymorphous pre- pre- pre- pre- pre- pre- pro- forward regress retrograde semicircle sub- trans- across, beyond transcend	mono-	alone, one	monolith
omni- over- above overbearing poly- pre- before pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- backward retrograde semi- half, partly semicircle sub- trans- across, beyond transcend	non-	not	nonentity
over- above overbearing poly- many polymorphous pre- before precede pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- backward retrograde semi- half, partly semicircle sub- under submarine trans- across, beyond transcend	ob-	against	objection
poly- many polymorphous pre- before precede pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- backward retrograde semi- half, partly semicircle sub- under submarine trans- across, beyond transcend	omni-	all, everywhere	omniscient
pre- before precede pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- backward retrograde semi- half, partly semicircle sub- under submarine trans- across, beyond transcend	over-	above	overbearing
pro- forward propel re- back, again regress retro- backward retrograde semi- half, partly semicircle sub- under submarine trans- across, beyond transcend	poly-	many	polymorphous
re- back, again regress retro- backward retrograde semi- half, partly semicircle sub- under submarine trans- across, beyond transcend	pre-	before	precede
retro- backward retrograde semi- half, partly semicircle sub- under submarine trans- across, beyond transcend	pro-	forward	propel
semi- half, partly semicircle sub- under submarine trans- across, beyond transcend	re-	back, again	regress
sub- under submarine trans- across, beyond transcend	retro-	backward	retrograde
trans- across, beyond transcend	semi-	half, partly	semicircle
	sub-	under	submarine
un- not unneeded	trans-	across, beyond	transcend
	un-	not	unneeded

Suffixes			
Suffix	Meaning	Example	
-able, -ible	able to	usable	
-er, -or	one who does	competitor	
-ism	the practice of	rationalism	
-ist	one who is occupied with	feminist	
-less	without, lacking	meaningless	
-ship	the art or skill of	statesmanship	
-fy	to make	dignify	
-ness	the quality of	aggressiveness	
-tude	the state of	rectitude	
-logue	a particular kind of speaking or writing	prologue	

Roots		
Root	Meaning	Example
arch	to rule	monarch
belli	war, warlike	belligerent
bene	good	benevolent
chron	time	chronology
dic	to say	indicative
fac	to make, to do	artifact
graph	writing	telegraph
mort	to die	mortal
port	to carry	deport
vid, vis	to see	invisible