

Vocabulary Power



Lesson 23 Prefixes That Tell Where

Knowing prefixes that tell *where* can help you build your vocabulary. For example, if you know that the Latin prefix *circum-* means “around” or “about,” you can more easily figure out the meaning of *circumference* or *circumnavigate*. When you know that *inter-*, from Middle French and Latin, can mean “between” or “among,” you are halfway to understanding words like *intercede* and *intercept*. The Latin prefixes *sub-*, meaning “below,” “under,” “beneath,” or “secondary,” and Greek *mid-*, meaning “middle,” can be instrumental in understanding such words as *subsequent*, *subservient*, *midsummer*, and *midriff*.

Word List

circumlocution	intersperse	midlife	submerge
circumstance	intervention	subconscious	substandard
interact	midcontinent		

EXERCISE A Context Clues

Choose the word from the word list that best matches each clue. On the lines provided, write the word and your own definition of the word, and then check it against a dictionary.

1. This word combines the prefix *mid-* with the Latin root *continere*, meaning “to hold together.” It refers to something that might occur in Europe or Asia. _____

My definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

2. In this word, the prefix *sub-* combines with the Latin root *mergere*, meaning “to plunge.” It can be used figuratively to describe hiding something from view. _____

My definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

3. In this word, the prefix *circum-* is added to the Latin root *loqui*, meaning “to speak.” It applies to a comment that is not direct. _____


My definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

4. This word blends the prefix *inter-* with the root *venir*, meaning “to come.” It can refer to a helpful or harmful action. _____

My definition _____

Dictionary definition _____

 **Vocabulary Power** *continued*

5. The prefix *sub-* joined with the root *standan*, meaning “to stand,” produces a word that has to do with something that is below average. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____
6. When *circum-* is added to the root *stare*, meaning “to stand,” the word that results is a synonym for event or condition. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____
7. In this word, the prefix *inter-* is added to the root *spargere*, meaning “to scatter.” The word that results is a synonym for sprinkle. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____
8. The prefix *inter-* plus the root *actus*, meaning “doing, act,” produces this word, which has to do with people enjoying each other’s company and their surroundings. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____
9. When the root *scire*, meaning “to know,” is added to the prefix *sub-*, the resulting word has to do with one’s level of awareness. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____
10. The prefix *mid-* added to the Old English word *lif*, meaning “continuance,” refers to something that may happen when a person is in his or her forties. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____

EXERCISE B Prefixes

There are many other prefixes that refer to a place or direction. Choose one of the prefixes below and find five words that make use of the prefix. Write a definition for each one; then, use each one in a sentence.

***trans-* = across *peri-* = around *ad-* = to, toward**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____