

Prefixes Under-, Over-, and Counter-

CK-12 English

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The Prefixes Under-, Over-, and Counter-

Prefixes under-, over-, and counter- adding the meanings "under, beneath, too little," "over, above, too much," and "opposite"

Prefixes Under-, Over-, and Counter-



Think about what these pairs of words mean:

underpass	overpass
underripe	overripe
underexposed	overexposed

It isn't hard to see what the prefixes *under-* and *over-* mean. *Under-* means "under, beneath, too little." *Over-* means "over, above, too much."

The meaning of the prefix *counter-* is almost as easy to figure out. It means "opposite."

Compare these pairs of words.

attack	counterattack
clockwise	counterclockwise

The prefix *counter-* adds the meaning "opposite" to the words in the right column.

Examples

Analyze the following into prefix and stem.

Word	= Prefix + Stem
1. underestimate	= <i>under</i> + <i>estimate</i>
2. overestimate	= <i>over</i> + <i>estimate</i>
3. underweight	= <i>under</i> + <i>weight</i>

Word	= Prefix + Stem
4. overweight	= <i>over</i> + <i>weight</i>
5. counterrotation	= <i>counter</i> + <i>rotation</i>

Review

Analyze the following words into prefix and stem.

Word	= Prefix + Stem
1. undergrowth	= <i>under</i> + <i>growth</i>
2. overgrowth	=
3. overworked	=
4. undercoat	=
5. overalls	=
6. underclothes	=
7. counterflow	=
8. counterweight	=
9. overcoat	=
10. overflow	=
11. underground	=
12. overdose	=

Add one of the prefixes *under-*, *over-*, or *counter-* to each of the words below based on the meaning given in the left column.

Meaning of Prefix	+ Stem	= Word
13. "Beneath"	+ clothes	= <i>underclothes</i>
14. "Opposite"	+ effective	=
15. "Too much"	+ acting	=
16. "Too little"	+ statement	=
17. "Opposite"	+ sign	=
18. "Too much"	+ stated	=
19. "Opposite"	+ balance	=
20. "Too much"	+ react	=

Meaning of Prefix	+ Stem	= Word
21. "Too little"	+ achiever	=
22. "Too much"	+ corrected	=
23. "Too much"	+ achiever	=
24. "Too little"	+ exposure	=

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Show Answers
