

# Word Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes

In “Nature’s Woodworkers,” Susan Day says this about downy woodpeckers: “They’re easy to attract and, by paying close attention, you’ll soon be able to distinguish their individual patterns.”

*Attract* means “to cause to draw near.” It comes from the word root *tract*, which means “to pull.” A **word root** contains the main meaning of a word, but it can’t stand alone. It is combined with different prefixes and suffixes to form words. A **prefix** is a word part added to the beginning of a word. A **suffix** is a word part added to the end of a word. Like word roots, prefixes and suffixes add their own meanings to words.

Here are some prefixes and suffixes that can be added to *tract* to form new words.

Prefix	Suffix	Some Common Meanings
<i>at-</i>		toward
<i>ex-</i>		out of
<i>re-</i>		backward; back
	<i>-ive</i>	tending to do
	<i>-able</i>	capable of doing
	<i>-ion</i>	state or condition (of); action or process (of)

Complete each sentence with a word made by adding a prefix, a suffix, or both to the word root *tract*. Use the prefixes and suffixes in the box above, and use each just once. You may refer to a dictionary.

- The miners hoped to \_\_\_\_\_ diamonds from the earth.
- His warm, \_\_\_\_\_ personality won him many friends.
- The ridged soles of sneakers provide helpful \_\_\_\_\_ on slippery ground.
- A turtle’s \_\_\_\_\_ neck allows it to pull its head inside its shell.

## Challenge



Use the prefixes and suffixes in the chart above or any others you know to make six additional words with *tract*. On a separate sheet of paper, write a sentence using each word correctly. You may refer to a dictionary.