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Prefixes

Definition

Prefixes are word parts that attach to the beginning of base words to change their meaning. These small but powerful units modify the sense of the root word in consistent, predictable ways and help form new words with related meanings.

Example

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
un-	not	unhappy, unable, uncertain
re-	again	rewrite, retell, review
dis-	not, opposite	disagree, disappear, disconnect
pre-	before	preview, prepare, prevent
mis-	wrongly	misunderstand, misspell, misplace

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PART 1: Identify the Meaning of Prefixes

Select the correct meaning of the underlined prefix in each term related to Roman aqueduct systems.

1. Engineers needed to reconstruct sections of the aqueduct after severe storm damage.

- a) before
- b) against
- c) again
- d) wrong

2. The subterranean channels of the aqueduct system carried water beneath hills.

- a) under
- b) over
- c) between
- d) around

3. Roman engineers created interconnected water systems linking multiple aqueducts.

- a) not
- b) between
- c) before
- d) After

4. Prefabricated stones were shaped before being transported to construction sites.

- a) many
- b) after
- c) before
- d) against

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PART 2: Choose the Right Prefix

Select the prefix that correctly completes each word to match the given definition.

1. The aqueduct's ____flow was carefully calculated by engineers to ensure consistent water delivery.

(meaning: movement through or across)

- a) re-
- b) trans-
- c) mis-
- d) co-

2. Roman architects needed to ____view each aqueduct section for structural weaknesses.

(meaning: examine again)

- a) re-
- b) pre-
- c) un-
- d) in-

3. The ____estimation of water volume could lead to aqueduct overflow or insufficient supply.

(meaning: incorrect or wrong)

- a) dis-
- b) non-
- c) mis-
- d) de-

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4. Water pipes required ____periodic maintenance to prevent blockages.

(meaning: happening at regular intervals)

- a) mono-
- b) multi-
- c) inter-
- d) semi-

PART 3: Create New Words with Prefixes

Choose the correct prefix from the box to create a word that completes each sentence about Roman aqueducts.

uni- anti- co- multi- over-

1. Roman engineers created a ____directional water flow system to ensure gravity moved water from mountains to cities.

2. The a____erosion techniques used by Romans protected aqueduct foundations from water damage.

3. The ____operation between different engineering teams ensured aqueducts were built efficiently.

4. The ____level water channels required precise measurements to maintain proper flow.

5. The ____purpose aqueduct system provided water for drinking, bathing, and irrigation.

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PART 4: Match Prefixed Words with Definitions

Match each prefixed word related to Roman aqueduct engineering with its correct definition.

- ____ intercept
- ____ dehydrate
- ____ nonporous
- ____ superstructure
- ____ underwater

- a. Remove water from something
- b. Not allowing water to pass through
- c. Catch or stop something in its path
- d. Construction built above the main structure
- e. Beneath the surface of water

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PART 5: Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence with a word that contains an appropriate prefix.

1. The Romans built aqueducts to ____ distribute water throughout their cities, ensuring equal access to clean water.
2. Engineers had to ____ calculate the slope of each aqueduct section to maintain consistent water flow.
3. When cracks appeared, workers would ____ seal the aqueduct channels to prevent water leakage.
4. The ____ flow of water from multiple sources was managed through a complex system of distribution tanks.
5. Roman aqueducts were an ____ comparable engineering achievement that demonstrated their advanced understanding of hydraulics.

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Prefixes – Answer Key

PART 1: Identify the Meaning of Prefixes

1. c) again
2. a) under
3. b) between
4. c) before

PART 2: Choose the Right Prefix

1. b) trans-
2. a) re-
3. c) mis-
4. d) semi-

PART 3: Create New Words with Prefixes

1. uni-directional
2. anti-erosion
3. co-operation
4. over-level
5. multi-purpose

PART 4: Match Prefixed Words with Definitions

1. c - intercept
2. a - dehydrate
3. b - nonporous
4. d - superstructure
5. e – underwater

PART 5: Fill in the Blank

1. redistribute
2. recalculate
3. reseal
4. inflow
5. incomparable