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pre·fix  (prē fiks')

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tr.v. **pre·fixed**, **pre·fix·ing**, **pre·fix·es**

1. To put or attach before or in front of.

2. (prē-fiks) To settle or arrange in advance.

3. *Grammar*

a. To add as a prefix.

b. To add a prefix to.

n.

1. *Grammar* An affix, such as *dis-* in *disbelieve*, attached to the front of a word to produce a derivative word or an inflected form.

2. A letter, word, abbreviation, or number placed before a name, address, or other identifying label to indicate class or category: *You have to indicate on the form whether you prefer the prefix Mr., Ms., or Dr.*

[Middle English *prefixen*, from Old French *prefixer* : *pre-*, before (from Latin *prae-*; see [PRE-](#)) + *fixer*, to place (from Latin *fixus*, past participle of *figere*, to fasten; see [dhig^w](#) - [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)). N., from New Latin *praefixum*, from neuter sing. of Latin *praefixus*, past participle of *praefigere*, to fix in front : *prae-*, *pre-* + *figere*, to fasten.]

pre fix'al *adj.*

pre fix'al·ly *adv.*

pre'fix·a tion (-fik-sā shən), **pre·fix ion** (-fik shən) *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

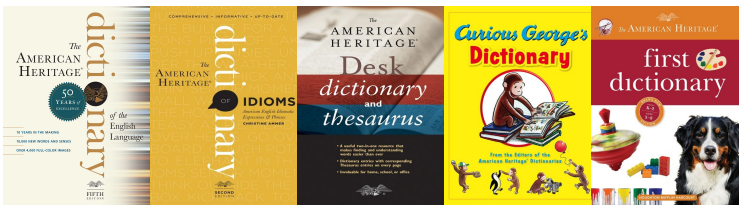
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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