

## **Root words, Prefixes and Suffixes**

Understanding the meanings of common roots can help you work out the meanings of new words as you encounter them.

The core of a word is called the root.

A **root word** can be used on its own.

**BUT**

Since much of the English language is derived from Latin and Greek there may be times when the root of a word is not immediately recognizable because of its origin. These roots can not stand alone in English; they need something joined to make them a whole word in English.

Astro – star    Astronaut

Bene – good    Benefactor

**Prefix** – before

Prefixes may create new words or antonyms.

**Suffix** – after the word (word endings)

They modify the words to which they are connected and often change the Parts of Speech of these words. (A verb can become an abstract noun as in rely – reli**ance**.)