



# In Other Words

## Etymology Card Game

Prefixes, suffixes, and root words, oh my!  
How can we use them to make other words?  
Practice combining them with this fun word-building game!

### **2–4 Players**

### **Supplies**

- Printer
- Paper (cardstock will make sturdier cards)
- Scissors or paper cutter
- Dictionary or thesaurus

### **Getting Ready**

- Card pages need to be printed, double-sided.
- Cut the cards out along the dashed lines.
- Print the Game Mat.



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## How to Play (Keep these handy during the game!)

### The Goal

Be the first player to play all of your cards!  
When you win, say **“In Other Words, I win!”**

### The Materials

- In Other Words Cards
- In Other Words Game Mat

### The Cards

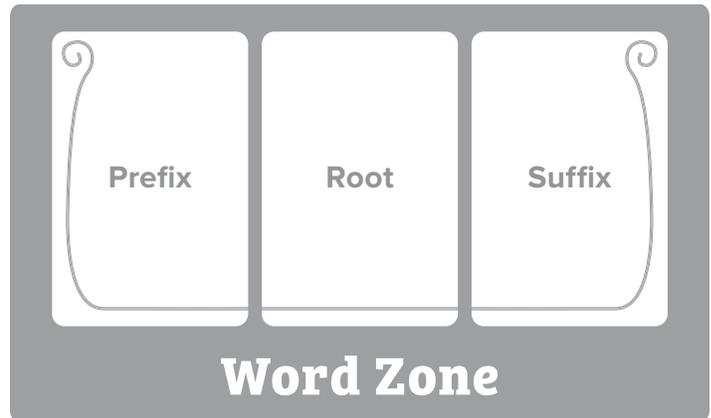
The **Game Mat** has a **Word Zone** with three spots for cards. Each completed word must contain at least one **Prefix**, **Root**, and **Suffix**.

#### Prefix Cards

These cards go in the first spot in the Word Zone because a prefix goes **before** the root of a word. (Remember, “pre-” means “before”!)

#### Root Cards

The **root** is the main part of a word. Just like the roots of a tree support the whole tree, these cards give the word its core meaning. They always go in the Word Zone’s middle spot.



#### Suffix Cards

A **suffix** is a word part added to the end of a root. These cards go in the last spot on the Word Zone.

There is also a special card to watch out for!

#### Rewind Cards

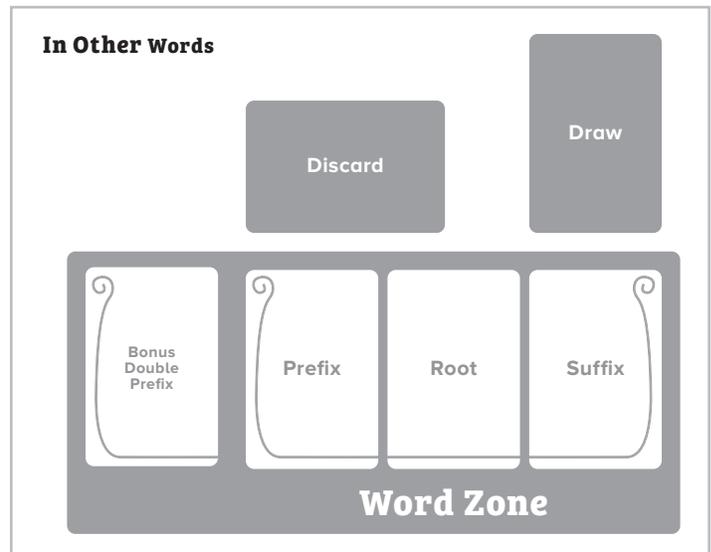
This card reverses the direction of play.  
If the game was moving to the left, it now goes to the right, and vice versa.

#### Note

Some prefixes (like *in-*), roots (like *tend*), and suffixes (like *-able*) are words on their own, but in this game, try to play them in combination with at least one other card to form a word. That is the challenge!

## Game Setup

- Place the Game Mat where all players can reach it.
- Shuffle all the cards and place them face down on the **Draw** spot. This is your draw pile.
- Deal 7 cards to each player. You can look at your own cards—but make sure no other players can see yours!
- Flip the top card of the draw pile face up and place it on the correct spot in the Word Zone.
- The youngest player goes first, and play continues clockwise. In other words, the person to their left goes next.



## On Your Turn

- Place one or more cards down in the **Word Zone** to create a real word.
- **Each completed word must contain at least one Prefix, Root, and Suffix.**
- Say the part of the word you played, or the whole word that has been created.
- When a word contains all three parts in the Word Zone, clear it and place those cards in the Discard pile. Then flip a new card from the Draw pile and pass to the next player.
- If you can't add to the word in the Word Zone, take 1 card from the top of the Draw pile.
- Then it is the next person's turn.

### Completing and Clearing the Word Zone

If you create a word that has **at least one prefix, one root, and one suffix**, you get to **Clear** the Word Zone!

- Say the word you made one last time.
- Move the completed word cards to the Discard pile.
- Flip the top card from the Draw pile to start a new word in the Word Zone.
- Your turn is now over.

### Rewind Cards

This card reverses the order of play. In other words, the person who went before you goes again, and then the person who went before them, and so on . . .

To play a Rewind card:

- Put it on the Discard spot.
- Say "Rewind!"
- You don't need to pick up a new card from the Draw pile!

### Bonus: Can you make a real double-prefix word?

Sometimes, you can make a double prefix word if you can build a word with two prefixes, a root, and a suffix (like re-con-struct-ed). This way, you can discard an extra prefix card on your turn.

## What if . . .

### . . . you can't play a card?

If you can't add to the word in the Word Zone, just take one card from the Draw pile. Your turn is now over, and play moves to the next person.

### . . . the Draw pile runs out?

Take the **Discard** pile and shuffle it. This is your new **Draw** pile.

### . . . a player makes a word that isn't real?

You can check a dictionary or thesaurus, or the word list included with this game. If it isn't a real word, that's ok, they just take their card(s) back and try again. This is a great way to learn.

### . . . there are only two players and someone plays a Rewind card?

The person who plays the Rewind card gets an extra turn!

### . . . we think of some other prefixes, roots, and suffixes we want to add?

This is why there is a page of blank cards! Be creative and make your own!

### . . . we have a question about a rule and can't find the answer?

Work together to make a rule that all players can agree on.

### Challenge Mode!

Level up your game by using each completed word in a sentence! If you place a card that makes a complete word, you need to use that word in a sentence. Anyone that adds a card to a word needs to use that word in a sentence.

- *Example:* If the prefix *de-* is in the Word Zone and you play the root *scribe*, you'll need to use *describe* in a sentence. If the next person plays a suffix, like *-ing*, they will need to use *describing* in a sentence.

### Extension Questions

Ask your student:

- There were some times when we played cards that sounded like (or seemed like it should be) a real word, but it wasn't. Why do you think it isn't a real word?
- There were times when we looked up cards that didn't sound right, but turned out to be a real word. Why do you think it didn't sound like a real word?
- Were there any Prefix, Root or Suffix cards that were easier to pair with other cards to make a word? Why do you think that card was easier to play than others?
- Were there any Prefix, Root or Suffix cards that were harder to pair with other cards to make a word? Why do you think that card was harder to play than others?

## Word List

Here is a list of some words that can be created using the Prefix, Root, and Suffix cards in this game. We recommend having a dictionary or thesaurus on hand to check combinations you may be unsure of.

### **act** **(to do, to drive)**

act-ing  
act-ed  
act-ion  
act-or  
act-able  
ex-act-ing  
ex-act-ed  
in-act-ion  
re-act  
re-act-ed  
re-act-ing  
re-act-ion  
trans-act  
trans-act-ion  
Double Prefix:  
pre-trans-act-ion  
un-re-act-ing

### **struct** **(to build)**

con-struct  
con-struct-ed  
con-struct-ing  
con-struct-ion  
de-struct  
de-struct-ing  
de-struct-able  
de-struct-ion  
in-struct  
in-struct-ing  
in-struct-ed  
in-struct-able  
in-struct-ion  
in-struct-or  
Double Prefix:  
de-con-struct-ed  
in-de-struct-able  
re-con-struct-ion

### **form** **(to shape, bring together)**

form-ing  
form-ed  
form-able  
form-er  
con-form  
con-form-ing  
con-form-ed  
de-form  
de-form-ing  
de-form-ed  
in-form  
in-form-ing  
in-form-ed  
in-form-er  
re-form  
re-form-ed  
re-form-ing  
re-form-er  
trans-form  
trans-form-ed  
trans-form-ing  
trans-form-able  
trans-form-er  
Double Prefix:  
un-in-form-ed

### **heat** **(to become warm)**

heat-ed  
heat-ing  
heat-able  
heat-er  
pre-heat  
pre-heat-ed  
pre-heat-ing  
re-heat  
re-heat-ed  
re-heat-ing  
re-heat-able  
un-heat-ed  
Double Prefix:  
un-re-heat-able  
un-pre-heat-able

### **tend** **(stretch out)**

tend-er  
tend-ing  
tend-ed  
con-tend  
con-tend-ing  
ex-tend  
ex-tend-ed  
ex-tend-ing  
ex-tend-able  
ex-tend-er  
in-tend  
in-tend-ed  
in-tend-ing  
pre-tend  
pre-tend-ing  
pre-tend-ed  
pre-tend-er  
un-tend-ed  
Double Prefix:  
re-ex-tend-ed  
pre-ex-tend-ed  
un-in-tend-ed  
un-ex-tend-ed

### **press** **(to squeeze or push)**

press-ed  
press-ing  
press-able  
de-press  
de-press-ed  
de-press-ion  
ex-press  
ex-press-ed  
ex-press-ing  
ex-press-able  
ex-press-ion  
re-press  
Double Prefix:  
in-ex-press-able

### **scribe/scrib** **(to write)**

de-scribe  
de-scrib-ed  
de-scrib-ing  
de-scrib-able  
in-scribe  
in-scrib-ed  
in-scrib-ing  
in-scrib-er  
pre-scribe  
pre-scrib-ing  
pre-scrib-ed  
pre-scrib-able  
pre-scrib-er  
tran-scribe  
tran-scrib-ing  
tran-scrib-ed  
trans-scrib-er  
Double Prefix:  
in-de-scribe-able  
re-in-scrib-ed  
re-in-scrib-ing  
re-tran-scrib-ing  
un-tran-scrib-able  
un-tran-scrib-ed