



Worksheet 1 – The Magic Shop Powerful Prefixes

For a moment we were alone...There was a tiger in an ornate glass case that covered the low counter; there were several crystal spheres, a china hand holding magic cards, a stock of magic fish bowls in various sizes, and a huge multicoloured magic hat. On the floor were mirrors; one to draw you out long and thin, one to swell your head and make your legs vanish, and one to make you short and fat.

A **prefix** is a letter or group of letters placed at the beginning of a word. Prefixes are derived from other languages, e.g. Latin or Greek, and have meanings that reflect the word they introduce. The word *prefix* itself even uses the prefix '**pre**' (based on the Latin word 'before'). Let's study the etymology (word origins) of the underlined prefixes in the excerpt above from *The Magic Shop*:

Word	Prefix	Etymology	Other Examples
ornate	orn-	'decorate' (Latin)	ornament
spheres	spher-	'ball' (Latin)	spherical
multicoloured	multi-	'many' (Latin)	multiple, multi
mirror	mir-	'to wonder at' (Latin)	mirage, miracle
vanish	van-	'empty' (Latin)	vanity

Task 1: Create a similar table for the underlined words in these sentences from *The Magic Shop*:

1. The trick was quite unexpected.
2. He produced another glass ball from the back of his neck.
3. We had a glimpse of the youngster...a nasty little egotist pawing at the window.
4. And leaning over the counter – he really had an extraordinarily long body.
5. "I think we'll go now," I said to the invisible shopkeeper.
6. "So would I," I said, "if the counter didn't extend itself to shut off the door."
7. I saw with a hint of distrust and something very much like jealousy.
8. It was a short blobby nose, and then suddenly he shot it out like a telescope.
9. I turned around, but Gip was quite preoccupied with the shopkeeper.
10. It was only when we opened the parcels at home that I began to be reassured.

Task 2: Use an etymological dictionary to identify prefixes used for:

- star-shaped, air, water, ancient, relating to the heart, tooth, water, sun, moon, child
- the numbers 1-10, 100 & 1000
- animals e.g. cow, lion, horse, bird, dog, goat, turtle.

Extension Activity:

- Design a dust jacket for *The Magic Shop*. Use the description at the top of this page to design the front cover and write an interesting blurb on the back cover.