

Worksheet 1

Superstitions

Super Prefixes

The word 'superstition' comes from Latin and means roughly 'a big (super) thing that stands over you' in other words something really huge (and uncontrollable).

As a prefix, 'super' has adopted similar meanings over the years relating to its original Latin translation as mentioned above in the excerpt from the information text *Superstitions*, particularly higher in rank, quality or degree (e.g. superior).

Task 1: Use the clues below to locate words that begin with the prefix 'super':

1. Self-importantly judgemental and arrogant: _____
2. An extremely powerful computer: _____
3. Director or manager of a department: _____
4. A fictional character with supernatural powers: _____
5. A highly successful fashion model: _____
6. Inexplicable through natural laws; miraculous: _____
7. To replace something outdated: _____
8. Very plentiful: _____
9. A pension received after retirement: _____
10. Increase the power of a vehicle's engine: _____
11. Lacking emotion, shallow: _____
12. More than is required, unnecessary: _____
13. Extra strong adhesive: _____
14. A wide road for fast moving traffic: _____
15. An explosion in space causing star to shine brightly: _____

Task 2:

- a) Other prefixes that share a similar meaning to '**super**' include: '**extra**', '**mega**', and '**ultra**'. Add one of these prefixes correctly to each of the words below:

ordinary, store, sonic, modern, sensory, bucks, clean, marine, star & phone.

- b) These prefixes are also found in common acronyms. Write what the following abbreviations stand for: UHT, UHF, UV, MB and MHz

Extension Activities:

- In *Superstitions* we learn that mistletoe and four leaf clovers are considered 'magical' but flowers from a peony plant must be avoided at weddings as they symbolise 'shame'. There are many superstitions about other types of flowers and plants. Research this concept and record your findings in an information text.