Annex “Prefixes” of Michelle’s Workshop on Lexical Creativity & Word Formation

Lexical Creativity & Word Formation: Prefixes
for Vantage / Upper Intermediate (B2) Advanced (C1, C2) students

Use the prefixes below to create new words. Find suitable contexts/examples (dialogue or definition)
You can combine them with the word formation resources of compounding and conversion, too.

My own creation using conversion and affixation/derivation: From n. potato > v. to potato > to depotato: to take some potatoes out of a potato omelet before the egg is done!

Note on hyphenation:

Case 1. Never hyphenate at the end of a line, please! Leave that to professionals. Just don’t justify the right margin when you type docs, like people in the English-speaking world do.

Case 2 (related to this topic). The union of two words which were separate with or without a hyphen tends to occur depending on use (the more frequent the word is used, the more it tends to “forget” about the hyphen), which means anything can happen!

In any case, here are some tips:

1. **Affixes** are usually joined with a 2nd element **without** a hyphen, unless doing so would **double a vowel** or **triple a consonant**.
   Examples: antiwar demonstrations but an anti-intellectual; ladylike but bell-like (but childlike! And then: many common prefixes, such as co-, de-, pre-, pro-, and re-, are often added without a hyphen: coordinate, preeminent, reenter. In contrast, the hyphen tends to be retained in words that begin with all-, ex- (meaning “former”), half-, quasi- (in adjective constructions), and self:- self-taught, all-around, ex-

2. Hyphens tend to be **used** when the element following a prefix is **capitalized** or when the element preceding a suffix is a proper noun: anti-American, American-like.

3. Certain **homographs** require a hyphen to **prevent mistakes** in pronunciation and meaning: recreation (enjoyment), re-creation (new creation); release (to let go), re-lease (to rent again).

And now... It’s your turn!