



The Prefix OUT-



“OUT” Different Meanings

The word OUT has many forms. [Adjective, Noun, Verb, Adverb, Preposition, and Prefix] The adverb and preposition forms have 30 meanings!

Adjective

having told other people that you are gay or lesbian

- Sam has been **out** since college, but many of his friends already suspected he was gay.

[out adjective - OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/out_adjective)

Out-and-out is an adjective phrase that means - *each and every way*.

It is often used with the noun **lie** to show that what was said was not true in any way.

- The president said he would lower taxes but that was an **out-and-out** lie. He raised taxes after only 3 months in office!

[out-and-out adjective - OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/out-and-out_adjective)

Noun

a way of avoiding having to do something

- The boss wants us to work this weekend so I need to find an **out** quickly.

[out noun - OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/out_noun)

Verb

to say something publicly about somebody/something that they would prefer to keep secret

- An investigative reporter **outed** the politician as a liar and a fraud.

[out verb - OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/out_verb)

Adverb

I have included a few of the 30 definitions from Oxford Learner's Dictionaries dot com. I tried to choose definitions that I think are more common. You can view the entire list here. [LINK](#)

away from the inside of a place or thing

- My wallet fell **out** of my pocket when I was getting off the train. Oh no!

(of people) away from or not at home or their place of work

- I called Mike this morning he was **out**.

outside; not in a building

- Take a scarf with you, it's cold **out** today.

used to show that somebody/something does not have any of something

- Since the Factory closed down $\frac{1}{3}$ of the town has been **out** of work.

not in the library; borrowed by somebody else

- I went to the library but the book I wanted is **out**. I put my name on the waiting list.

not correct or exact; wrong

- The couch doesn't fit in my living room. I think my initial measurements were **out**.

not fashionable

- A: Are wool ties **out** this winter?
B: No, wool ties are a classic that always look great.

to the end; completely

- I can't decide who should get the last piece of cake, you two will have to fight it **out**.

Prefix

out- prefix (in verbs)

greater, better, further, longer, etc.

- The team **outperformed** us for the whole game, they deserved to win.
- My son is growing fast. I bought him some new running shoes two months ago and he has already **outgrown** them.

(in nouns and adjectives)

outside; outward; away from

- The police made a thorough search of the **outlying** area but they couldn't find the suspect.
- The North wing of the hospital is for **outpatients**.

[out- prefix Oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com](http://out-prefix.Oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com)

Word Origin

Old English ūt (adverb), ūtian (verb), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch uit and German aus.

The Prefix OUT-

(in **verbs**) greater, better, further, longer, etc.

“The team **outperformed** us for the whole game, they deserved to win.”

(in **nouns** and **adjectives**) outside; outward; away from

“The police made a thorough search of the **outlying** area.”

Nouns with the Prefix OUT-

All the definitions from the next sections of this post come from OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com

outback - the area of Australia that is a long way from the coast and the towns, where few people live

- During my visit to Australia I spend time in Sydney, Melbourne, in three days camping in the **outback**.

outbox - the place on a computer where new email messages that you write are stored before they are sent

- I've got 11 emails in my **outbox** ready to be sent. I'm just waiting on my manager's approval because the messages contain some sensitive information.

outbreak - the sudden start of something unpleasant, especially violence or a disease

- There was an **outbreak** of measles at my school so I got a one-week vacation.

outbuilding - a building such as a shed or stable that is built near to, but separate from, a main building

- The large property had a huge house in the center along with several **outbuildings**.

outburst - a sudden strong expression of an emotion

- A French Member of Parliament has been banned after a racist **outburst** in parliament.

outcome - the result or effect of an action or event

- The team was sad after losing in the quarterfinals. This was not the **outcome** they expected.

outcrop - a large mass of rock that stands above the surface of the ground

- The hikers found some shade underneath a rocky **outcrop** near the river's edge.

outcry - a reaction of anger or strong protest shown by people in public

- The city was forced to reopen the park after a massive public **outcry**.

outdoorsman - a man who spends a lot of time doing outdoor sports and activities, especially in the countryside

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outdoorswoman - a woman who spends a lot of time doing outdoor sports and activities, especially in the countryside

- This forest campground is the ideal location for the **outdoorsman/outdoorswoman** in your family.

outfield - the outer part of the field in baseball, cricket, and some other sports

- The team's strongest hitter was at the plate so I moved deep into the **outfield**.

outfielder - (in cricket and baseball) a player in the outfield

- I used to play second base but I prefer being an **outfielder**.

outfit - a set of clothes that you wear together, especially for a particular occasion or purpose

- I love your **outfit**. Where did you buy it?

outflow - the movement of a large amount of money, liquid, people, etc. out of a place

- Cryptocurrency exchanges have recorded a massive **outflow** of Bitcoin recently.

outgrowth - a thing that grows out of something else

- Violence is often an **outgrowth** of people's frustration and lack of opportunity.

out-group - the people who do not belong to a particular in-group in a society

- Most people have warmer feelings towards members of the in-group than the members of an **out-group**.

outhouse - a toilet in a small building of its own

- My family Cottage was deep in the woods so we didn't have running water. We had an **outhouse** behind the building.

outlaw - (used especially about people in the past) a person who has done something illegal and is hiding to avoid being caught; a person who is not protected by the law

- The sheriff rounded up a posse to travel into the desert and catch the **outlaws** who robbed the bank.

outlet - 1) a shop or an organization that sells goods made by a particular company or of a particular type

- My wife and I went to the **outlet** mall to buy some new summer clothes.

2) a way of expressing or making good use of strong feelings, ideas or energy

- Stuart found woodworking was a great **outlet** for his frustrations.

3) a device in a wall that you put a plug into in order to connect electrical equipment to the power supply of a building

- Is there an **outlet** in this room? I need to charge my smartphone.

outlier - a person or thing that is different from or in a position away from others in the group

- The survey results were not affected by **outliers** in the group.

Outliers: The Story of Success is a non-fiction book written by Malcolm Gladwell and published in 2008. The book examines the factors that contribute to high levels of success.
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outliers_\(book\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outliers_(book))

outline - 1) a description of the main facts or points involved in something

- I gave my boss an **outline** of what I wanted to present at the meeting.

2) the line that goes around the edge of something, showing its main shape but not the details

- The police drew an **outline** of where the body was found.

outpatient - a person who goes to a hospital for treatment but does not stay there

- The North wing of the hospital is for **outpatients**.

outperformance - the fact of achieving better results than somebody/something

- The **outperformance** of the new company's stocks disrupted the market.

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outpost - a small military camp away from the main army, used for watching an enemy's movements, etc./a small town or group of buildings in a lonely part of a country

- Four soldiers were stationed at the **outpost**.

outpouring - a strong and sudden expression of feeling

- After the accident the family received an **outpouring** of support from the community.

output - the amount of something that a person, a machine or an organization produces

- We need to increase our **output** if we hope to meet this month's sales target.

outreach - the activity of an organization that provides a service or advice to people in the community, especially those who cannot or are unlikely to come to an office, a hospital, etc. for help

- Community **outreach** is important to support people who find themselves living on the streets.

outside - the outer side or surface of something

- This door only opens from the **outside**.

Outside can also be used as **preposition** that means - on or to a place on the outside of something

- Just leave the package on the floor **outside** my office.

Verbs with the Prefix OUT-

outbid - to offer more money than somebody else in order to buy something, for example at an auction

- I wanted to buy a small Van Gogh painting at the auction but a collector from Brazil **outbid** me.

outclass - to be much better than somebody you are competing against

- The Netherlands **outclassed** Senegal in their match with two late goals.

outdo - to do more or better than somebody else

- The meal was amazing tonight. The chef has **outdone** himself. (We often use the past participle **outdone** with the relative pronouns *yourself*, *himself*, *herself* when we want to give a compliment for something very special.)

Relative pronoun link

outfit - to provide somebody/something with equipment or clothes for a special purpose

- These army jeeps have been **outfitted** with machine guns and bulletproof glass.

outflank - to move around the side of an enemy or opponent, especially in order to attack them from behind

- The enemy had **outflanked** them. The soldiers had no choice but to surrender.

outfox - to gain an advantage over somebody by being cleverer than they are

- The General had **outfoxed** his enemies by attacking them from all sides.

outgrow - to grow too big to be able to wear or fit into something

- My son is growing fast. I bought him some new running shoes two months ago and he has already **outgrown** them.

outlast - to continue to exist or take part in an activity for a longer time than somebody or something

- The business did well by **outlasting** all its competitors.

outlaw - to make something illegal

- The city's decision to **outlaw** sleeping in public parks has angered some homeless activists.

outline - to give a description of the main facts or points involved in something

- I **outlined** the proposal to my boss and he approved.

outlive - to live longer than somebody

- My neighbor is 75, very healthy, and jogs every morning. I think he will **outlive** us all.

outmaneuver - to do better than an opponent by acting in a way that is cleverer or shows more skill

- The team had a good season but in the postseason they didn't do very well. They were **outmaneuvered** by their opponents in the playoffs.

Postseason Prefix POST link

outnumber - to be greater in number than somebody/something

- Even though the gang was **outnumbered**, they were still going to fight to the finish.

outpace - to go, rise, improve, etc. faster than somebody/something

- Marathon competitors must keep a slow but steady rhythm and **outpace** the other runners.

outperform - to achieve better results than somebody/something

- Linda **outperformed** the other tennis players and easily won the tournament.

outplay - to play much better than somebody you are competing against

- She easily **outplayed** her opponent in the final match.

outrun - to run faster or further than somebody/something

- If you meet a bear in the woods the best thing to do is to play dead. You shouldn't try to **outrun** it.

outrank - to be of higher rank, quality, etc. than somebody

- My coworker has some great ideas but my manager **outranks** him so I need to follow his directions.

outsell - to sell more or to be sold in larger quantities than somebody/something

- We **outsold** our main competitor in the fourth quarter this year. Everyone is getting a year-end bonus.

outwit - to defeat somebody/something or gain an advantage over them by doing something clever

- The drunk driver tried to **outwit** police officers, but he couldn't fool the test that proved he had too much alcohol in his system.

Adjectives and Adverbs with the Prefix OUT-

Adjectives

outboard - on, towards or near the outside of a ship or an aircraft

The **adjective outboard** is used with the nouns engine and motor.

- My boat is light and fast with two **outboard** motors.

outbound - traveling from a place rather than arriving in it

- All **outbound** passengers should now move to gate #33.

outdated - no longer useful because of being old-fashioned

- My boss has a lot of experience but many of his ideas are **outdated**. It's time for him to retire.

outdoor - used, happening or located outside rather than in a building

- I just bought some **outdoor** patio furniture to put in my backyard.

outdoorsy - enjoying outdoor sports and activities, especially in the countryside

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- Amanda was an **outdoorsy** child but as she got older she preferred staying at 4-star hotels to camping and sleeping in a tent.

outgoing - liking to meet other people, enjoying their company and being friendly towards them

- Sean is very **outgoing** and never has trouble making new friends.

outweigh - to be greater or more important than something

- After looking closely at the proposal the cons seem to **outweigh** the pros so I decided to pass. (They were more bad points than good points so I didn't accept the proposal.)

Adverbs

outdoors - outside, rather than in a building

- We cooked the hamburgers on the grill but the rain kept us from eating **outdoors**.

outfield - in or to the outfield

- The ball was hit deep **outfield**.

outside - not in a room, building or container but on or to the outside of it

- I was 10 minutes early so I waited **outside**.

outward - towards the outside; away from the center or from a particular point

- The two large wooden doors open **outward** to reveal the beautiful entrance to the mansion.

outwardly - on the surface; in appearance

- Internally the couple was having lots of problems but **outwardly** they seemed fine.



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