The Prefixes EN- and EM-

Word List

Prefix EN- Meaning

The prefixes EN- is used to make verbs that mean -
① to cause to be
en + large = enlarge (verb) to make large
"Let me **enlarge** the text size so it's easy to read."

② to put into the thing or condition mentioned
en + danger = endanger (verb) to put somebody/something in a situation in which they could be harmed or damaged
"The reckless driver **endangered** the lives of pedestrians by speeding through the crowded crosswalk."

Oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com - Prefix en-

The prefix EM- has the exact same meaning. It is used with words that begin with the letters **B**, **M**, or **P**.
em + power = empower (verb) to give power (put power into something)
"The goal of the leadership training program is to **empower** employees to make important decisions on their own."

Oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com - Prefix em-

Prefix EN-	to cause to be
large	**en**large - to make large
Prefix EM-	(Same meaning) Before words that begin with B, M, or P
bold	**em**bolden - to make brave or more confident

*Note – the adjective bold needs the suffix EN plus the prefix EM to become a verb

Prefix EN-	to put into the thing or condition mentioned
danger	**en**danger - to put in danger
Prefix EM-	(Same meaning) Before words that begin with B, M, or P
power	**em**power - to give power (put power into something)

Prefix EN- Word Origin

Origin
from French, from Latin in-. See also in-, a commonly found by-form.

Prefix EN- Word Examples

Most of the words on my list are proper root words whose meaning changes after adding the prefixes EN- or EM-. I didn't include words like embellish or entrepreneur because there is not a clear root word that becomes a verb after adding a prefix.
Most of the definitions in this post come from Oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com

*Note - The following words on this list are verbs. They are often being used in the Past Participle form with the Passive Voice English grammar.
You can follow up on these grammar points in detail at the posts below. These links will open in a new tab so you can refer to them after you use this resource.
- Use Past Participles Correctly (25 Real Examples + PDF list + Video)
- Learn the Passive Voice (20 Real Examples - Video - Free PDF Download)

en + able = enable (verb) to make it possible for somebody/something to do something
- "Can you please **enable** the subtitles on this video?"
en + act = enact (verb) to pass a law
- "The government is expected to **enact** new laws to address the issue."
en + amor = enamor (verb) to be filled with love for [This comes from the French *amour* which means LOVE.]
- "He was **enamored** with her beauty."
en + case = encase (verb) to surround or cover something completely, especially to protect it
- "The ancient document was **encased** in a protective glass display at the museum."
en + circle = encircle (verb) to surround somebody/something completely in a circle
- "The soldiers **encircled** the enemy camp."
en + close = enclose (verb) to build a wall, fence, etc. around something
- "The letter was **enclosed** in a plain white envelope, sealed with a strip of tape."
en + code = encode (verb) to change ordinary language into letters, symbols, etc. in order to send secret messages
- "The company uses advanced algorithms to **encode** sensitive information."
en + courage = encourage (verb) to give somebody support, courage or hope
- "His parents always **encouraged** him to follow his dreams."
en + crust = encrust (verb) to cover or coat something with a hard, thick layer of something, usually something decorative or ornamental
- "The crown was **encrusted** with jewels."
en + crypt = encrypt (verb) to put information into a special code, especially in order to prevent people from looking at it without authority
- "She **encrypted** the sensitive documents before sending them over the internet."
en + danger = endanger (verb) to put somebody/something in a situation in which they could be harmed or damaged
- "The reckless driver **endangered** the lives of pedestrians by speeding through the crowded crosswalk."

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The adjective reckless is made with the suffix less. You can do a deep dive into this suffix at my blog post here >>> [Adjectives with the Suffix -less (79 Examples, PDF, Video)](#)

en + force = enforce (verb) to make sure that people obey a particular law or rule
- "The law was strictly **enforced** by the police."

en + gender = engender (verb) to make a feeling or situation exist
- "His actions **engendered** a lot of resentment among his coworkers."

en + gorge = engorge (verb) to cause something to become filled with blood or another liquid and to swell (= become larger or rounder than normal)
- "The bird was **engorged** with ticks."

en + grave = engrave (verb) to cut words or designs on wood, stone, metal, etc.
- "He had his initials **engraved** on the inside of the ring."

en + gross = engross (verb) if something engrosses you, it is so interesting that you give it all your attention and time
- "She became completely **engrossed** in the mystery novel, she couldn't put it down until she had finished the final chapter."

en + gulf = engulf (verb) to surround or to cover somebody/something completely
- "The fire quickly **engulfed** the entire house."

en + joy = enjoy (verb) to get pleasure from something
- "I really **enjoy** going to the beach on weekends."

en + large = enlarge (verb) to make large
- "Let me **enlarge** the text size so it's easy to read."

en + list = enlist (verb) to persuade somebody to help you or to join you in doing something/to join the armed forces; to make somebody join the armed forces
- "He decided to **enlist** in the military after college."

en + liven = enliven (verb) to make something more interesting or more fun
- "The high-energy music helped **enliven** the party."

en + roll = enroll (verb) to arrange for yourself or for somebody else to officially join a course, school, etc.
- "I need to **enroll** in a class before the deadline passes."

en + shrine = enshrine (verb) to make a law, right, etc. respected or official, especially by stating it in an important written document
- "The freedom of our citizens is **enshrined** in our constitution."

en + slave = enslave (verb) to make somebody the property of another person who they are forced to work for and obey
- "Many people were **enslaved** and forced to work in terrible conditions in the past."

en + snare = ensnare (verb) to make somebody/something unable to escape from a difficult situation or from a person who wants to control them
- "Sadly many poor people with little opportunity can easily become **ensnared** in a life of crime."

en + title = entitle (verb) to give somebody the right to have or to do something
- "The contract **entitles** you to 15 vacation days each year."

en + trench = entrench (verb) to establish something very strongly so that it is very difficult to change or affect
- "The fortress was **entrenched** in the mountains."

en + trust = entrust (verb) to make somebody responsible for doing something or taking care of somebody

- "He **entrusted** the care of his young children to his sister while he was away on business."

Prefix EM- Word Examples

em + bed = embed (verb) To embed something means to place it firmly and deeply within a surrounding substance
- "I **embed** videos in my blog posts to make them more helpful for language learners."

em + body = embody (verb) to express or represent an idea or a quality
- "The statue **embodies** the spirit of the city."

em + broil = embroil (verb) to involve somebody/yourself in an argument or a difficult situation
- "The family's financial problems **embroiled** them in a lot of stress and conflict."

em + power = empower (verb) to give power (put power into something)
- "The goal of the leadership training program is to **empower** employees to make important decisions on their own."

em + ploy = employ (verb) to give somebody a job to do for payment
- "The company **employs** 11 full-time and 29 part-time staff."

BONUS EM- word (Adjective)
embattled adjective - surrounded by problems and difficulties
 - this comes from the older English verb 'embattle' which means to make ready for battle. (EM + battle) The verb embattle is not commonly used today.
Many adjectives are made from the past participle form of verbs. Embattled is the past tense and the past participle of embattle.

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