

FAVOR Latvian Resource

Vocabulary building with verbs

Latvian has a number of prepositions which are also used as prefixes to change, slightly or even quite radically, the meaning of basic verb forms. As you get to know Latvian better, you are bound to notice the big range of verbs that can be used by ringing the changes of the prefixes, with subtle changes of meaning. Let's learn a few. Here is a list of prepositions and prefixes: if there is a hyphen after the prefix, it means it is a prefix only; if there is no hyphen, it is a preposition as well. There are also prepositions that are not used as prefixes, like **ar** 'with'.

ap about, around

at- back(wards)

ie- in(to)

iz- out (of)

no from, off, away

pa- once, momentary action

pār over

pie at

sa- together, with

uz on(to)

With these prefixes you can create verbs with new meanings from the basic forms.

Lauzt means 'break'. Can you guess the meaning of: *ielauzt*, *salauzt*, *uzlauzt*?

Rādīt means 'show'. So what is: *pierādīt*, *norādīt*, *uzrādīt*?

Nākt means 'come'. Guess the meaning of: *ienākt*, *pienākt*, *atnākt*?

Braukt means 'travel'. So what is: *apbraukt*, *uzbraukt*, *pabraukt*?

Lidot means 'fly'. What is the meaning of: *salidot*, *atlidot*, *pārlidot*?

(Answers: Break in, break up, break open. Prove, indicate, present. Enter, approach, arrive, Fly together, arrive by air, fly over.)