Appendix B

Latin and Greek Word Components

The English language has hundreds of Latin word stems from which we derive thousands of words. Here is a partial list of some of the most accessible and useful ones for students:

cede, ceed, cess: to go, to yield	accede, access, concede, concession exceed, excessive necessary, necessitate process, procession recede, recession, secession, succession
clud, clus, clos: to close	clause cloister closet conclude, conclusion enclose exclude, exclusion include, inclusion occlude, occlusion preclude, preclusion recluse, reclusive seclude, seclusion
cur, curs; to run	current, currency cursive, cursor cursory discursive incur, incursion occur, occurrence recur, recursive, recurrent

duct, duce: to lead, to pull	abduct, abductor, abduction aqueduct *conduct* duct, ductile deduce, deduct, deduction induce, induct, inducement, induction produce, product, producer, productive reduce, reductive seduce, seduction, seductive transducer
fac, fic: to do, to make	*de facto* faction fact, factor factory fiction, fictitious manufacture
fer, phor: to carry	confer, conference conifer defer, deference, deferential differ, difference, different, differential, differentiate infer, inference, inferential metaphor, metaphorical offer phosphorescence refer, reference, referent suffer, sufferance, insufferable transfer, transference
flec, flex: to bend	deflect, deflection flexible, flexibility genuflect, genuflection inflect, inflection reflect, reflection
flu, flux: flow	affluence, affluent confluence effluent flue, fluent, fluency influence, influx reflux, suffuse, superfluous

gress, grad: to step	aggression, aggressive congress, congressional degrade egress grade, gradient graduate ingress progress, progressive, progression regress, regressive, regression retrograde
ject: to throw	adjective abject deject, dejection inject, injection object, objective, objectify subject, subjective trajectory
lat: side	lateral, bilateral, unilateral latitude relate, relative, relationship
mit, miss: to send	admit permit remit, emit, omit, transmit, admission, per- mission, remission, emission, omission, transmission, mission, missionary, submit, submissive, submission
morph: shape	morpheme, morphology, amorphous, poly- morphous, ectomorph, mesomorph, endo- morph, metamorphosis
mot: to move	motility, motivate, motive, remote, demote, promote
nom, nym: to name	nominate, denominator, nominal, ignominy, nomenclature, synonym, acronym, homonym
pel, pul: to drive	impel, propel, repel, dispel, expel, compel, impulse, propeller, propulsion, repulsive, expulsion, compulsion

plic, plex: to fold	complicate, complicit, implicate, explicate, explicit, implicit accomplice, supplicate, duplicate, replicate complex
port: to carry	transport, import, export, portable, deport, report, support, port, opportunity
pos, pon: to put or place	position, depose, deposition, disposition, repose, suppose, expose, exposure, exposition, expository, impose, imposition
reg, rect: straight	rectangle, regular, rectify, erect, rectitude, correct, direct
script, scribe: write	transcript, scripture, conscription, prescription, subscription, prescribe, transcribe, subscribe, proscribe, inscribe, inscription, describe, description, manuscript
sect, sec: to cut	section, secular, bisect, dissect, intersect, transect, sector, secant
ten, tin, tain, tang, tex, tec, tac, teg: to touch, to hold	ascertain attack attain attend, attention contain, containment contend, contention contingent, contingency detain, detention, detainee extend, extensive, extension integer, integral, integrity, intact intend, intensive, intention maintain, maintenance pretend, pretense, pretension pretext retain, retention sustain, sustenance tactile, tacky, tact, texture tenure, tenant, tenet, texture, text, tangential

tract: to drag, to draw	attract, attractive, attraction contract, contraction detract distract, distraction extract, extraction intractable protract, protractor, protracted retract, retraction subtract, subtraction traction, tractor, tractable
veh, vect: to carry	convection vector vehicle
vert, vers: to turn	averse, aversion, avert adversity converse, controversy, convert, conversion diverse, diversion, divert inverse, inversion obverse reverse, reversion, revert subvert, subversive, subversion Versatile, verse

The stems above usually appear in the middle of the word. Here are a few more that usually appear at the beginning of words. Yet, they can't be considered prefixes because they are an integral part of the word. (A prefix would have to be removable from the word, leaving the word intact, such as *reread, preview*.)

Ambi, amphi	Ambivalent, ambidextrous, amphibian, amphibious
Dyna: Power	Dynamic, dynamo, dynasty
Per: through	Permeate, permeable, perspire, perforate, persuade
Bene: good	Benefit, *note bene*, benefactor, benevolent, beneficiary, benign
Mal: bad	Malnutrition, malcontentment, malefactor, malice, malicious, malignant

Meta: Beyond, change	Metamorphosis, metacognition, metaphysical, metaphor, metabolism
Mut: change	mutable, mutation, immutable, mutiny
Syn:together	synthesis, synchronize, syntax, synergy
Con, com: together	convene, compress, contemporary, converge, compact, conduct, confluence, committee, communal, constituent, component
Trans: across	Transcontinental, transient, transdermal, transitory, transition, transit, transport, transfer
Equi: balance	Equal, equilateral, equidistant, equilibrium

The prefixes below indicate spatial relationships and are frequently found in academic language.

Ecto, exo: outside	Exoskeleton
Extra: in addition	Extrapolate, extraterrestrial
Inter: between	Interaction, interactive Intercoastal interpersonal
Peri: around	Perimeter Periscope Perinatal
Super, supra: beyond	Supernova superfluous

When you present the roots, always be sure to have at least one familiar word in the list of derivatives, so that the student can connect new information to known information. If all of the derivatives are new words, the student will just think: "Here are a bunch of words that I don't know."

And note that teaching word components has the added benefit of teaching spelling clusters. Students become better spellers when they see clusters, rather than thinking that English words are spelled at random.

In addition, we have many words that populate academic text whose Latin or Greek origin is expressed at the ends of words (but not as suffixes). These words are particularly common in mathematics and science, and they are also common in social studies.

-us	apparatus, bacillus/bacilli, locus/loci, focus/foci, fungus/fungi, radius/radii, sinus stimulus/stimuli, syllabus/syllabi, terminus, virus
-um, as the singular -a, as the plural	bacterium/bacteria, datum/data, medium, media; referendum, referenda
-ex, -ix	apex, appendix/appendices; index/indices/ matrix/matrices/vortex/vortices
-is	analysis, epiglottis, glottis, metropolis, synopsis
-on	criterion/criteria, electron, horizon, neutron, phenomenon, polyhedron, tetrahedron

Common Phonemic Blends in Greek-Based Words

The Greek-based words are extremely important in academic understandings, and the way that they are spelled can be off-putting to inexperienced readers. Certain letter clusters typify Greek-based words and special attention should be paid to them because of their usefulness and possible unfamiliarity to deficient readers:

Ph: Words that have the *ph* combination having the sound of *f* are always Greek-based and deserving of special attention. Examples: *phonics, phonetic, alphabet, physical, physics, graphic, photosynthesis geography*

-y: When a word has a *Y* as its second letter, that word is Greek-based and deserves special attention. Examples: *mystery, dynamics, cycle, gyrate, hypothesis, lyrics, symmetry, tyrant*

Ch: *psychology, chaos, chemical, chroma, chromosome*

Sci: *science, conscience, conscientious*

Other words of Greek origin that deserve special attention are words that end in *-ology,* words with the unvoiced *th* sound (*theme, thesis*), words ending in *-sis* (*crisis, thesis, synthesis*), those having a the *kn* or *gn* that have to do with knowledge (*knowledge, acknowledge, agnostic).* .