

# STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS: Using Word Parts

Morphemic analysis – ability to determine a word's meaning through examination of its prefix, root, and/or suffix.

Morpheme – the smallest unit of meaning.

Compound words – 2 words put together to create a new word; separate words often give a clue to the long word's meaning.

Affix – morphemic element added to the beginning or ending of a word to add to the meaning of the word or change its function.

Prefix – affix placed at the beginning of a word or root to form a new word (*un-*, *re-*, *in-*, *ir-*, *il-*, *dis-*, *en-*, *em-*, *non-*, *over-*, *mis-*).

Suffix – affix added to the end of a word or root to form a new word

1. derivational – changes the part of speech or function (*-al*, *-less*, *-ous*, *-er*).
2. inflectional – mark grammatical items and include plural *-s*, 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular *-s*, present participle *-ing*, past tense *-ed*, past participle *-en*, comparisons *-er* and *-est*, and the adverbial *-ly*.

Root – word part left after all affixes have been removed.

**\*Choose elements to be taught from student's reading – in context!!**

# MORPHEMIC ANALYSIS TERMS: DEFINITIONS AND EXAMPLES

| TERM                        | DEFINITION  | EXAMPLES  |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| ROOT WORDS<br>(ANGLO-SAXON) | Roots (sometimes called base words) can stand alone without a prefix or suffix.   | friend, happy, love, jump, bake   |
| WORD ROOTS<br>(LATIN)       | Word roots can't stand alone. They carry the major meaning of the word—and are usually stressed (e.g., <i>flexible</i> ).   | flex, spec, mem   |
| WORD ROOTS<br>(GREEK)       | These word roots (or “combining forms”) usually appear in pairs, with two parts of equal stress and importance (e.g., tele/phone, micro/phone). Most can't stand alone. | tele, phono; photo, arch, graph, gram, meter, ology, sphere   |
| COMPOUND WORD               | A word composed of two or more root/base words usually Anglo-Saxon in origin.   | applesauce, afternoon   |
| PREFIX                      | A unit of one or more letters placed before a root to form a word with a meaning different from that of the root. Can't stand alone.                                    | Most frequently occurring: un-, re-, in/im/ir/il-, dis-, en-/em-, non-, over-, mis-, sub-, pre-, inter-, fore-, de-, trans-, super-, semi-, anti-, under-:<br><i>redo, unhappy, illegal</i> |
| SUFFIX                      | A unit of one or more letters placed after a root to form a word with a different meaning or a different grammatical function. Can't stand alone.                       | See below.  |
| INFLECTIONAL SUFFIX         | Does not influence the meaning of a word. Changes the word so that it fits the structure of the sentence.   | -s, -ed, -ing, -er<br><i>talks, talked, talking, bigger</i>   |
| DERIVATIONAL SUFFIX         | Changes the meaning of the root; changes part of speech.  | -ful, -hood, -less, -ous, -ion<br><i>fearless, prediction[n] from predict[v]</i>  |



# FREQUENT PREFIXES

| LATIN PREFIXES<br>*most frequent | MEANING        | EXAMPLE       | ANGLO-SAXON PREFIXES<br>*most frequent | MEANING | EXAMPLE     |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--|---------|-------------|
| *re-                             | back, again    | return        | *un                                    | not     | unfriendly  |
| bene-                            | well, good     | benefit       | over                                   | over    | overlook    |
| semi-                            | half           | semicircle    | under                                  | under   | underground |
| contra-                          | against        | contradict    | a                                      | on      | ashore      |
| pro-                             | forward        | project       |  |         |             |
| de-                              | down, from     | decline       |  |         |             |
| ante-                            | before         | anteroom      |  |         |             |
| ab-                              | from           | abnormal      |  |         |             |
| *dis-                            | opposite       | disagree      |  |         |             |
| ad-                              | to             | advise        |  |         |             |
| non-                             | not            | nonsense      |  |         |             |
| mal-                             | bad            | malpractice   |  |         |             |
| mis-                             | wrongly        | misunderstood |  |         |             |
| *in-                             | in, not        | injustice     |  |         |             |
| inter-                           | between        | interact      |  |         |             |
| ob-                              | against        | object        |  |         |             |
| super-                           | above          | superstar     |  |         |             |
| trans-                           | across         | transatlantic |  |         |             |
| post-                            | after          | postscript    |  |         |             |
| pre-                             | before         | precaution    |  |         |             |
| con-                             | together, with | concert       |  |         |             |

# FREQUENT SUFFIXES

| LATIN SUFFIXES | MEANING             | EXAMPLES             | ANGLO-SAXON SUFFIXES<br>*frequent | MEANING                          | EXAMPLES       |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| -or            | one who, that which | doctor               | *-ed                              | change of tense                  | hopped         |
| -ment          | the state or act of | enjoyment            | *-er                              | comparative; noun suffix         | bigger, worker |
| -al            | referring to        | personal             | *-ful                             | full of                          | careful        |
| -ence (-ance)  | the state or act of | fragrance, violence  | *-ly                              | in what manner                   | speedily       |
| -able (-ible)  | able to, capable of | comfortable          | *-ing                             | change of tense                  | running        |
| -ar            | one who             | beggar, liar         | *-ness                            | full of (changes part of speech) | kindness       |
| -ty            | the state or act of | infinity             | *-s, -es                          | more than one                    | books, boxes   |
| -ist           | one who             | pianist              | -ish                              | relating to                      | ticklish       |
| -ate           | to make             | create               | -less                             | without                          | fearless       |
| -sion (-tion)  | the state or act of | occasion, attraction | -ship                             | art or skill of                  | horsemanship   |
| -ure           | an act or process   | manicure             |                                   |                                  |                |