

Affixes Homework 1

Word Study Stems and Affixes

Using context clues is one way to guess the meaning of an unfamiliar word. Another way is word analysis - that is, looking at the meanings of parts of words. Many English words have been formed by combining parts of older English, Greek, and Latin words. If you know the meanings of some of these word parts, you can often guess the meaning of an unfamiliar English word, particularly in context.

For example, the word **report** is formed from **re**, which means back, and **port**, which means carry. **Scientist** comes from **sci**, which means know, and **ist**, which means one who. **Port** and **sci** are called “stems” or “roots.” A *stem* is the basic part on which groups of related words are built. **Re** and **ist** are called *affixes*, that is, word parts that are attached to stems. Affixes like **re**, which are attached to the beginning of stems, are called *prefixes*. Affixes attached to the end, like **ist**, are called *suffixes*. Generally, prefixes change the meaning of a word and suffixes change its part of speech. Here is an example:

Stem: pay (verb)	honest (adjective)
Prefix: repay (verb)	dishonest (adjective)
Suffix: repayment (noun)	dishonestly (adverb)

Word analysis is not always enough to give you the precise definition of a word you encounter in a reading passage, but with context, it will help you to understand the *general meaning* of the word so that you can continue reading without stopping to use a dictionary. That’s your goal!

Below is a list of some commonly occurring stems and affixes. Make a list of new words based ONLY on these affixes.

Prefixes

com-, con-, co-	together, with	cooperate, connect
in-	on, into	inter, input
pre-	before	prepare, prehistoric
tele-	distance	telephone

Stems

-audi-, -audit-	hear	auditorium, auditor
-dic-, -dict-	say, speak	dictator, dictation
-phon-	sound	telephone
-scrib-, -script-	write	describe, script
-spect-	look at	inspect, spectator
-vid-, -vis-	see	video, vision

Suffixes

-er, -or	one who	worker, spectator
-ist	one who	typist, biologist
-tion, -ation	condition, the act of	action, celebration

Your Example Words:

One word per line is enough.

My advice: A dictionary might not help for some of these. Brainstorm with classmates. Be sure you know the MEANING of your example word.

com-, con-, co-	-scrib-, -script-
pre-	-spect-
tele-	-vid-, -vis-
audi-, -audit-	-er, -or
-dic-, -dict-	-ist
-phon-	-tion, -ation

Inflections

Inflections are like affixes, but are really grammatical suffixes. They change the basic grammar of words they are attached to. For example, the inflection “-s” can make a singular noun plural: “car -> cars.” Inflections may not attach to all words; for example, the plural of “child” is “children,” and other words may change spelling when an inflection is added (“dish” becomes “dishes”). Here is a list of the 8 inflectional suffixes of English.

Inflectional Suffix:	Example:	Grammatical function:
-ed	exploded	past tense or past participle
-en	hidden	past participle
-ing	planning	gerund: progressive form or present participle
-s	continues	third person singular verb
-s	explosions	plural
-‘s	prosecutor’s	possessive marker
-er	larger	comparative
-est	largest	superlative