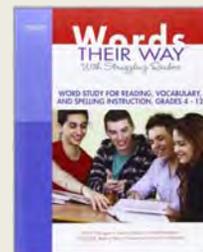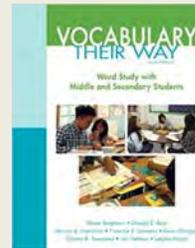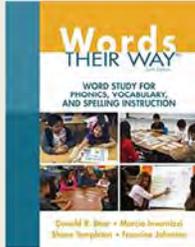# Word Structure Analysis for High‑Achieving Students:
Spelling and Vocabulary Instruction in the Derivational Relations Stage

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Word Consciousness

Interest, Knowledge, and Appreciation of Words
and Word Formation Processes

Morphology

- Morphemes are the smallest units of meaning in a word.

- Morphology is the study of how morphemes combine to form words in a given language (Word Formation Processes).

trees

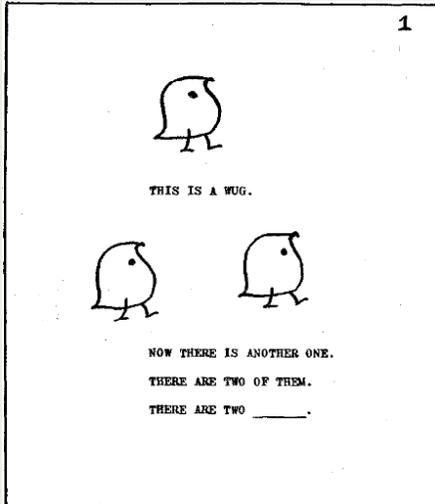## Word Structure Analysis

unmistakable

un-	prefix	not
-able	suffix	able to
mis-	prefix	wrongly
take	base word	take

Literally translates to: *not able to (take/understand/interpret) wrongly*

Jean Berko's Wugs Test

THIS IS A WUG.

NOW THERE IS ANOTHER ONE.
THERE ARE TWO OF THEM.
THERE ARE TWO _____.

Berko demonstrated that even preschool-aged children are able to understand basic word formation processes.

This early research supports the theory that we hold knowledge of base word as single lexical entries, while the plural forms are stored as procedural knowledge.

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vacuole

vacuum

vacant

vacate

vac
EMPTY

vacuous

vacation

evacuate

vaccinate
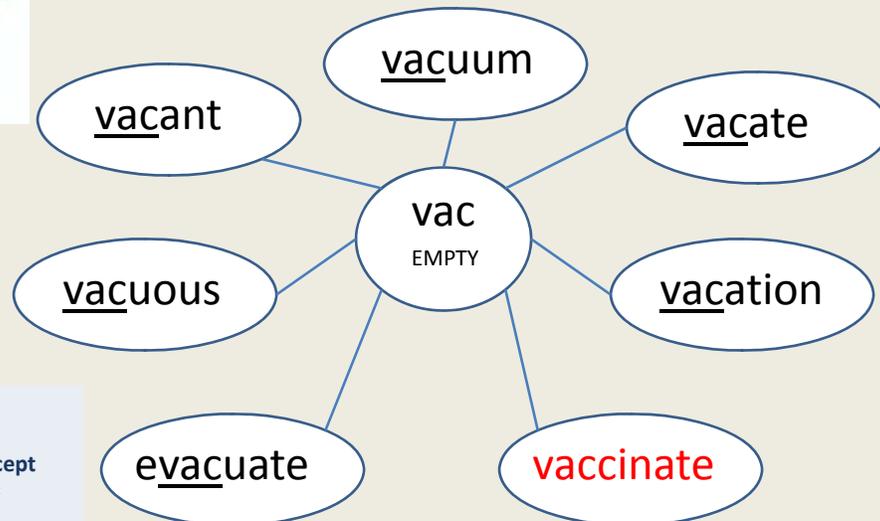
Traditional vocabulary instruction often involves learning BOTH a new concept and a definition for a new vocabulary term.

Word Formation Processes

Transparent
(No Change in Sound or Spelling)   **predict/predictable**

Sound Change   **equal/equality**

Spelling Change   **fame/famous**

Sound and Spelling Change   **reduce/reduction**

Word Structure Analysis
Assimilated Prefixes

illicit

in-   **il-**

incomplete   **il**legal
insincere   **il**legible   *licitus*   lawful
invisible   **il**legitimate
invalid   **il**literate   *licere*   to be allowed
incorrect   **il**licit
                                              lic   English Root

Literally translates to: *not lawful; not allowed*

The Prefix *in-* *(not; opposite of)*
And Its Assimilated Forms

The prefix *in* assimilates to

im when placed before bases or roots beginning with the letters *m* and *p*
ir when placed before bases or roots beginning with the letter *r*
il when placed before bases or roots beginning with the letter *l*

in-	im-	ir-	il-
incomplete	impossible	irresponsible	illegal
insincere	improper	irregular	illegible
invisible	impolite	irrational	illegitimate
invalid	immature	irresistible	illiterate
incorrect	immobile	irreversible	illicit

Assimilated Prefixes

Assimilate

Related to *similar* - to make like, copy, imitate, etc.

Once you begin to pay attention, you will find that assimilated prefixes are literally everywhere.

Morphemes Do Stray from Their Original Meanings
(www.etymonline.com)

literally (adv.)

1530s, "in a literal sense, according to the exact meaning of the word or words used," from **literal** + **-ly** (2). Since late 17c. it has been used in metaphors, hyperbole, etc., to indicate what follows must be taken in the strongest admissible sense. But this is irreconcilable with the word's etymological sense and has led to the much-lamented modern misuse of it.

> We have come to such a pass with this emphasizer that where the truth would require us to insert with a strong expression 'not literally, of course, but in a manner of speaking', we do not hesitate to insert the very word we ought to be at pains to repudiate; ... such false coin makes honest traffic in words impossible. [Fowler, 1924]

The Prefix *sub-* *(under; beneath; after)*
And Its Assimilated Forms

suffice	**sur**rogate	**supp**lant	**sus**pect
suffix	**suc**ceed	**sup**port	**sus**picion
suffer	**suc**cumb	**sup**pose	**sug**gest
surrender	**suc**cinct	**sup**press	**sus**tain

support

Literally translates to: *to carry from below*

support
supporting
supported
unsupported
supportable
supportability
insupportable

etc ...

Morphemes Do Stray from Their Original Meanings
(www.etymonline.com)

Merriam Webster reminds us that:

words will often stray from their roots.

people will complain about this.

the English language will somehow survive.

https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/when-words-stray-from-their-roots

The Prefix _com_- *(together; with)*
And Its Assimilated Forms

com-	con-	col-	cor-	co-
committee	connect	collapse	corrode	coexist
community	conclude	collision	corrupt	cohesion
company	construct	collect	correspond	cohort
compact	conspire	colleague	correlate	coincide

The Prefix *ob-* *(to; toward; against)*
And Its Assimilated Forms

ob-	op-	oc-	of-
obscure	oppose	occur	offer
object	opposite	occupy	offend
obstruct	opportunity	occasion	officious
obnoxious	oppress	occupation	offense

The Prefix *ad-* *(to; toward)*
And Its Assimilated Forms

ad-	ac-	at-	af-	ag-	al-	an-	ap-
adhesive	accept	attend	affirm	aggregate	alliance	announce	approach
admire	accident	attempt	affable	aggression	alleviate	annotate	appear
adjective	account	attract	affinity	aggravate	allow	annex	applaud

as-	ar-
assume	arrange
assess	arrest
associate	arrive

Instruction

vocabulary word for 10/05/16: **equivalent**

(adj/noun) the same as, or equal to, another thing.

ETYMOLOGY: from Latin aequus ROOT: equi/equa (equal) + valere ROOT: val (be strong; be well)
   (Literal Translation: Strongly Equal)

SPELLING: This word is mostly spelled as it sounds. The schwa Ə sound /uh/ equiv uh lent is spelled with an "a" to maintain the morpheme (unit of meaning) val = well; strong.

OTHER FORMS: equivalence (noun form); equivalency; equivalent (adj/noun); equivalently (adverb form)

RELATED WORDS:
equi: equidistance (same distance); equitable (fair; reasonable); equilibrium (balance); etc.
equa: equator; equation; equal; etc.

COGNATES/TRANSLATIONS: Spanish: equivalente; French: équivalent; Haitian Creole: ekivalan; Italian: equivalente; Russian: эквивалент (ekvivalent)

EXAMPLE: "The winter break from school is shorter than summer vacation. They are not equivalent."

Instruction

in-	im-	ir-	il-
incomplete	impossible	irresponsible	illegal
insincere	improper	irregular	illegible
invisible	impolite	irrational	illegitimate
invalid	immature	irresistible	illiterate
incorrect	immobile	irreversible	

- **Word hunts (Written; Oral; Online word hunts)**
- **Illustrations depicting words**
- **Word Study Notebooks**
- **Games**

Symbol	Description	Result
imm*	wildcard: any number of letters	Immature; immobile
com	any letters before AND after *com*	accommodate; recommend
?ake	any single letter prior to *ake*	cake; take; make
??ake?	any two letters prior and one after *ake*	stakes; awaken
#@#	CVC	bed; pig; cat
##o#	CCoC	stop; frog; *but also,* know
#a#e	CaVe	base; game; fare
##@#e	CCVCE	blaze; crate; glove
ir*:not	words beginning with *ir* meaning *not*	irrelevant; irreversible
a word to the wise	any <u>phrase</u> with these words	A word to the wise is sufficient.

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*   Wildcard: returns any series of letters where placed

?   Single letter wildcard: returns one letter (vowel or consonant) where placed

\#   Consonant: returns a single consonant where placed

@   Vowel: returns a single vowel where placed

:   Colon: returns words that have a meaning related to a search term placed after the colon

Phrase Search returns phrases containing the words enclosed with double asterisks

This is only a sampling of the search capabilities of this website.