

STUDENT INTRODUCTION

Latin and Greek Elements

A root is the element that gives the basic meaning of the word. In this book, the term root refers to the original Greek* word. An English word may have two or more roots in it. Identifying these roots can help you to define a word you don't know.

A prefix is an element that is added to the beginning of a word. The prefix adds to or alters the meaning of the basic word. For example, the prefix ant means opposite. The root onym means word.

ant + onym = antonym a word that is opposite in meaning

The prefix syn means with or together.

syn + onym = synonym a word that is similar in meaning

A suffix is an element added to the end of a word. The suffix can define the word grammatically, giving some indication as to the part of speech a word is.

Root: dermat = skin Suffixes: ology (study of), ist (one who), ic (related to)

dermat + ology = dermatology study of skin (noun)

dermat + ology + ist = dermatologist one who studies skin (noun)

dermat + ology + ic = dermatologic related to the study of skin (adjective)

Identifying the Elements in a Word

The information below will help the student identify the word elements (Objective 1 above).

- A word can have more than one root, as shown below. Each root is circled.

thermo + meter = thermometer

- Often, when a word ends with a root, an e is added to the end of the root.

tele + phon = telephone

- Sometimes similar letters are dropped when elements are combined.* The student should use overlapping circles to identify roots when two roots share letters.

bio + ops + y = bioopsy

- The last letter may be dropped when a suffix is added.

dermat + ology + ist ology drops the y in dermatology

geo + ology geo drops the o in geology

- English words may vary in meaning from the original Latin or Greek root word. In this upper level book, the student may find it necessary to use dictionaries, online resources, or other reference materials in order to determine the meaning of some words.

*Variations in spelling of roots are indicated on the chart with a slash. Below, the root them can be spelled with or without an o, depending on the word.

PREFIX	ROOT	SUFFIX
	therm/o heat	