



# WORD PARTS

## Building Vocabulary with Prefixes, Roots and Suffixes

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for Lansing Community College

# WORD PARTS

- Sometimes long words contain smaller words or word parts
- Prefixes, Roots, Suffixes
  - Some words have all 3, some do not
- Latin & Greek word parts are building blocks for English words
- Learning word parts will help to increase your vocabulary



# PREFIXES

- Prefixes come at the beginning of a word.

## Latin Examples:

- a (or ab): without or not amoral, abnormal
- anti: against antifreeze
- dis: not disagree, disengage
- in (il, im, ir): in or out inspect, illegal
- ex (e): out or out of export, eject

## Greek Examples:

- hyper: over hyperactive
- mono: one monotone
- tele: far/distance telescope, telephone



# ROOTS

- The root of a word gives its core meaning and can be at the beginning, middle or end of a word.

## Latin Examples:

cide:	kill (always end of word)	insecticide
cred:	belief	credible
dict:	word, say	dictionary, predict

## Greek Examples:

auto:	self	autobiography,
bio:	life	biology, biography
psych (psycho)	mind	psychology, psychic



# SUFFIXES

- Suffixes, which come at the end of a word, tell you how the word is used—whether it is a noun, verb, adjective, or adverb.

## Example Suffix for Noun(s)

-ist	(person)	dentist, realist
-ion	(quality/condition)	action, tension

## Example of Suffix for Verb

-ify	justify, simplify
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## Examples of Suffix for Adjective

-able/ible	stretchable, sensible
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# EXAMPLE OF USING WORD PARTS TO BUILD VOCABULARY:

○ The suffix *-cide* means *kill*. I can understand many words by knowing/learning what *-cide* means.

- Insecticide
- Homocide
- Suicide

If I don't completely understand the meaning of the whole word, I can at least know part of it and then try to figure out the rest by using **context clues** (how the word is used in its sentence and/or paragraph).



# ANOTHER WAY TO BUILD VOCABULARY IS BY UNDERSTANDING **ALTERNATE FORMS** WORDS.

○ Alternate means different, but similar.

○ **Example: Sympathetic**

- Sympathetically
- Sympathies
- Sympathize
- Sympathy

My sister's cat died and I \_\_\_\_\_ with her.

I sent her a \_\_\_\_\_ card. I deal with her \_\_\_\_\_, by expressing my \_\_\_\_\_ . I am \_\_\_\_\_ toward her.



- My sister's cat died and I sympathize with her. I sent her a sympathy card. I deal with her sympathetically, by expressing my sympathies. I am sympathetic toward her.





# HOW TO FIND WORDS THAT ARE RELATED BY WORD PARTS:

- Hard copy dictionaries often give some related words when there is a common root.
- [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) has lists of “related words” in the left column for any given word.
- Search for related words on the internet by typing in a word or word part.

