

Spelling and Assimilation

CK-12 English

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Spelling <rr> and Assimilation

<rr> due to assimilation, as in the word "correspond"

Spelling <rr> and Assimilation



Most of the time [r] is spelled <r>, but not always. Sometimes [r] is spelled <rr> due to simple addition, [twinning](#), or even assimilation.

Examples

When the prefixes *ad-*, *com-*, and *in-* are added to stems that start with an <r>, they assimilate to *ar-*, *cor-*, and *ir-*.

For example, the following words show [assimilation](#).

Word	Analysis: Prefix + Stem
<i>irrigation</i>	<i>i</i> <i>n</i> + <i>r</i> + <i>rigation</i>
<i>arrest</i>	<i>a</i> <i>n</i> + <i>r</i> + <i>rest</i>
<i>correctly</i>	<i>co</i> <i>n</i> + <i>r</i> + <i>rectly</i>

Review

1. Here are twenty words that all contain <rr>.

irrigation	interrupt	irritate	underrated
overripe	conferring	preferred	transferring
referred	scarred	arrange	irresponsible
arrest	correctly	irregular	surrendered
arrival	corruption	correspond	surroundings

Five of these twenty words have <rr> because of simple addition and five of them have <rr> because of [twinning](#). Find these ten in the list above and cross them off.

Ten of the twenty words above with [r] spelled <rr> start with an assimilated form of *ad-*, *com-*, or *in-*. Find them, write them in the left column below, and analyze them to show the assimilation that leads to the <rr>.

Word	Analysis: Prefix + Stem
2. <i>irrigation</i>	<i>i</i> <i>r</i> + <i>r</i> + <i>rigation</i>
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	

The following words each contain two prefixes and a stem with at least one instance of [r]. See if you can analyze them to show where the <rr> comes from in those where it occurs.

Word	= Prefix ¹	+ Prefix ²	+ Stem
12. incorrect	=	+	+
13. unirritable	=	+	+
14. overirrigated	=	+	+
15. uncorrupted	=	+	+
16. rearresting	=	+	+
17. nonsupportive	=	+	+
18. disarranged	=	+	+
19. irresponsibly	=	+	+
20. unsurprising	=	+	+
21. reinterpret	=	+	+
22. noninterrupted	=	+	+
23. disinterested	=	+	+

Review (Answers)

1.

irrigation	interrupt✓	irritate	underrated✓
overripe✓	conferring✓	preferred✓	transferring✓
referred✓	scarred✓	arrange	irresponsible
arrest	correctly	irregular	surrendered✓
arrival	corruption	correspond	surroundings✓

Word	Analysis: Prefix + Stem
2. irrigation	<i>i n_ + r + rigation</i>
3. arrest	<i>a d_ + r + rest</i>
4. arrival	<i>a d_ + r + rival</i>
5. correctly	<i>co m_ + r + rectly</i>
6. corruption	<i>co m_ + r + ruption</i>
7. irritate	<i>i n_ + r + ritate</i>
8. arrange	<i>a d_ + r + range</i>
9. irregular	<i>i n_ + r + regular</i>
10. correspond	<i>co m_ + r + respond</i>
11. irresponsible	<i>i n_ + r + responsible</i>

Word	= Prefix ¹	+ Prefix ¹	+ Stem
12. incorrect	= <i>in</i>	+ <i>co m_ + r</i>	+ <i>rect</i>
13. unirritable	= <i>un</i>	+ <i>i n_ + r</i>	+ <i>ritable</i>
14. overirrigated	= <i>over</i>	+ <i>i n_ + r</i>	+ <i>rigated</i>
15. uncorrupted	= <i>un</i>	+ <i>co m_ + r</i>	+ <i>rupted</i>
16. rearresting	= <i>re</i>	+ <i>a d_ + r</i>	+ <i>resting</i>
17. nonsupportive	= <i>non</i>	+ <i>su b_ + p</i>	+ <i>portive</i>
18. disarranged	= <i>dis</i>	+ <i>a d_ + r</i>	+ <i>rested</i>
19. irresponsibly	= <i>i n_ + r</i>	+ <i>re</i>	+ <i>sponsibly</i>
20. unsurprising	= <i>un</i>	+ <i>sur</i>	+ <i>prising</i>
21. reinterpret	= <i>re</i>	+ <i>inter</i>	+ <i>pret</i>
22. noninterrupted	= <i>non</i>	+ <i>inter</i>	+ <i>rupted</i>
23. disinterested	= <i>dis</i>	+ <i>inter</i>	+ <i>ested</i>

1.0 REFERENCES

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