

Word Elements and Bases

CK-12 English

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Printed: January 20, 2022 (PST)



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Word Elements and Bases

Smallest parts of words that add meaning to them, and the difference between bound and free bases

Word Elements and Bases



[Figure1]

Elements are the smallest parts that add meaning to written words. For instance, *repainted* contains three elements: *re* + *paint* + *ed*. The element *re-* at the front of the word adds the meaning “again.” The element *-ed* at the end of the word adds the meaning “in the past” or “action completed.” The element *paint* in the middle of the word gives the word its basic meaning, “paint.”

Elements like *re-* at the front of words are called prefixes. Elements like *-ed* at the end of words are called suffixes. And elements like *paint* that give the word its basic meaning are called bases.

Bases like *paint* that can stand free as separate words are called free bases. But many bases cannot stand free as words — for instance, the base *cept* occurs in words like *reception*, *perception*, *concept*, *intercept*, and *accept*, but we do not have a word spelled <cept>, so *cept* is not a free base. Bases like *cept* that cannot stand free as separate words are called bound bases.

Examples

Each of the following words contains three elements - a prefix up front, a free base in the middle, and a suffix at the end.

Word	= Prefix	+ Free Base	+ Suffix
repainted	= <i>re</i>	+ <i>paint</i>	+ <i>ed</i>
unlucky	= <i>un</i>	+ <i>luck</i>	+ <i>y</i>
informer	= <i>in</i>	+ <i>form</i>	+ <i>er</i>

Review

Analyze each word into its three elements as we have done with *repainted*:

Word	= Prefix	+ Free Base	+ Suffix
1. overcooked	=	+	+
2. restriction	=	+	+
3. preschooler	=	+	+
4. undoubted	=	+	+
5. disclaimer	=	+	+
6. exactness	=	+	+
7. mistakes	=	+	+
8. requested	=	+	+
9. misjudges	=	+	+

All of the words you just analyzed contained free bases that could stand alone as separate words. But there are many bases that cannot stand alone as separate words. Before these bound bases can stand free as words, they must have other elements added to them. Each of the following words contains a prefix, a bound base, and a suffix. Analyze each word into its three elements as we have done with *addiction*:

Word	= Prefix	+ Free Base	+ Suffix
10. addiction	= <i>ad</i>	+ <i>dict</i>	+ <i>ion</i>
11. abruptly	=	+	+
12. products	=	+	+
13. instructor	=	+	+
14. completeness	=	+	+
15. compliment	=	+	+
16. reception	=	+	+
17. perfected	=	+	+
18. recruiter	=	+	+
19. commits	=	+	+
20. repeating	=	+	+
21. exceeded	=	+	+

22. The smallest parts that add meaning to written words are called _____.

23. Elements that are added to the front of words are called _____.
24. Elements that are added to the end of words are called _____.
25. Elements that give the basic meaning to words are called _____.
26. Bases that can stand free as words are called _____.
27. Bases that cannot stand free as words are called _____.

Review (Answers)

Word	= Prefix	+ Free Base	+ Suffix
1. overcooked	= <i>over</i>	+ <i>cook</i>	+ <i>ed</i>
2. restriction	= <i>re</i>	+ <i>strict</i>	+ <i>ion</i>
3. preschooler	= <i>pre</i>	+ <i>school</i>	+ <i>er</i>
4. undoubted	= <i>un</i>	+ <i>doubt</i>	+ <i>ed</i>
5. disclaimer	= <i>dis</i>	+ <i>claim</i>	+ <i>er</i>
6. exactness	= <i>ex</i>	+ <i>act</i>	+ <i>ness</i>
7. mistakes	= <i>mis</i>	+ <i>take</i>	+ <i>s</i>
8. requested	= <i>re</i>	+ <i>quest</i>	+ <i>ed</i>
9. misjudges	= <i>mis</i>	+ <i>judge</i>	+ <i>s</i>

Word	= Prefix	+ Free Base	+ Suffix
10. addiction	= <i>ad</i>	+ <i>dict</i>	+ <i>ion</i>
11. abruptly	= <i>ab</i>	+ <i>rupt</i>	+ <i>ly</i>
12. products	= <i>pro</i>	+ <i>duct</i>	+ <i>s</i>
13. instructor	= <i>in</i>	+ <i>struct</i>	+ <i>or</i>
14. completeness	= <i>com</i>	+ <i>plete</i>	+ <i>ness</i>
15. compliment	= <i>com</i>	+ <i>pli</i>	+ <i>ment</i>
16. reception	= <i>re</i>	+ <i>cept</i>	+ <i>ion</i>
17. perfected	= <i>per</i>	+ <i>fect</i>	+ <i>ed</i>
18. recruiter	= <i>re</i>	+ <i>cruit</i>	+ <i>er</i>
19. commits	= <i>com</i>	+ <i>mit</i>	+ <i>s</i>
20. repeating	= <i>re</i>	+ <i>peat</i>	+ <i>ing</i>
21. exceeded	= <i>ex</i>	+ <i>ceed</i>	+ <i>ed</i>

22. The smallest parts that add meaning to written words are called elements.
23. Elements that are added to the front of words are called prefixes.
24. Elements that are added to the end of words are called suffixes.
25. Elements that give the basic meaning to words are called bases.
26. Bases that can stand free as words are called free bases.
27. Bases that cannot stand free as words are called bound bases.

1.0 REFERENCES

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